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for London:
fun and
functional

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How the news was received
in Britain 25 years ago

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miraculous
year of
Steffi Graf

LAST WEEK'S
AVERAGE DAILY SALE
444,000

No 63,219

THE TIMES

SATURDAY OCTOBER 22 1988

30p

Cabinet set to back Clowes 'lifeboat' plan

Thatcher in favour of rescue package

● The Government expressed sympathy for a "lifeboat" proposal to help investors who lost £150 million in the Barlow Clowes collapse
● A rescue package was being put together by Sir Peter Emery with bankers, solicitors and accountants involved in the affair

● The deal has to be approved by the Treasury and the Government's law officers, who are cautious not to set a precedent
● A financial intermediary which put £60 million of investors' money into Barlow Clowes was provisionally wound up

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Government last night indicated its sympathy with a "lifeboat" scheme being constructed to help the 18,000 investors who lost more than £150 million in the collapsed Barlow Clowes investment empire.

After another day of intense pressure over the Government's decision

not to pay out compensation to the investors, it was disclosed that ministers are looking favourably on a possible rescue package.

The package is being put together by Sir Peter Emery, the Conservative MP for

spokesman on trade and industry, of passing the buck. "He is the arch exponent of the politics of inaction, the do nothing Secretary of State per excellence. He is seen at his hand-washing best in the Barlow Clowes affair."

Mr Francis Maude, the Minister for Corporate Affairs, had earlier reaffirmed the Government's firm line against compensation.

He said: "We have said we have no legal liability. We do not believe we have a moral responsibility either. We do not believe we would be justified on the basis of facts set out in the Le Quesne report in using money taken from the general fund of taxpayers to pay compensation to a specific group of taxpayers." Ministers accept that much of the anger directed at the Government over the affair on Thursday arose from its determination to win the practical argument that it was not to blame.

But senior ministers appear to accept that wider political considerations mean that the Government cannot be seen to stand completely aside.

The welcome for Sir Peter's initiative came after he disclosed it in a BBC interview yesterday lunchtime.

The MP, a prominent businessman and former minister, many of whose constituents lost money in Barlow Clowes, disclosed that he had been in touch with accountants, solicitors and a bank involved in the affair.

It is understood the companies involved are Spicer and Oppenheim, the accountants, Herbert Smith, the solicitors, and the Midland Bank, all of whom were involved in giving advice to the DTI about Barlow Clowes.

He said that he was hopeful

Three die as aircraft crashes in Highlands

By Kerry Gill

A man and two women were killed yesterday when their light aircraft crashed and exploded in the Scottish Highlands.

The aircraft, a single-engine Robin, had just taken off from a grass airstrip at Feshiebridge, south of Aviemore, when it crashed near derelict railway cottages close to the Pass of Drumochter.

Police said the aircraft exploded and caught fire immediately and had become

embedded in peat. The crash happened in remote and rugged terrain only minutes after the aircraft took off for southern England.

Feshiebridge lies in a remote area where the three victims, members of the Avon Soaring Centre in Warwickshire, had been taking part in a gliding and adventure holiday.

The Northern Constabulary said it could be some time before positive identification was made.

Inspectors net salmon in hotel raids

By Ruth Gledhill

On a well-planned day-long fishing expedition in the West Country 14 inspectors from the South West and Wessex Water authorities have netted a haul of about 50 salmon, not from the streams and rivers, but from the kitchens, refrigerators and freezers of local hotels and restaurants.

Raids on an undisclosed number of West Country kitchens began early on Thursday and went on into the evening, after months of undercover preparation and detailed detective work by inspectors, wardens and fisheries staff.

They stalked the progress of what seem to have been gently poached fish from the salmon rivers to the table through the back doors of dining rooms and restaurants.

Under the Salmon Act which came into force in January, to protect wild stocks, restaurant and hotel owners face fines of up to £2,000 for each offence of handling salmon out of season or handling salmon in suspicious circumstances.

Until now prosecutions have concerned only the odd fish, a South West Water spokesman said, adding: "Hotel and restaurant owners were warned last year that they could face fines."

"Under the Act, it is illegal to handle a salmon if it would have been reasonable to suppose that it had been taken suspiciously."

As the salmon season only lasts from February 1 to August 31, any fresh salmon handled outside those dates could have been "taken suspiciously".

The operation is the largest in the area to date, but the recovered salmon represent only a tiny fraction of the estimated 20,000 fish, worth at least £250,000, poached from North Devon and Somerset rivers each year.

Dr Roger Merry, the South West Water Fisheries Inspector (East), said: "The authority has issued warnings that if anyone was offered salmon for sale they should be aware and ask the seller for his name and address and establish whether the fish was taken legally."

Several people are "helping the authority with its inquiries". The fish, meanwhile, are being held in a freezer at South West Water headquarters at Peninsular House in Exeter, Devon.

They are to be produced in court as evidence if required.

Baker kicked and jostled by student protesters

Angry crowd throws yoghurt over minister

By Sam Kiley, Universities Reporter



Mr Baker emerging from the mob to inspect the damage to his clothes and glasses.

A mob of students and agitators kicked and jostled Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, at the opening of a £3 million space research centre yesterday at Leicester University.

Mr Baker had opened the new centre and was walking to another building for lunch with local dignitaries when about 300 protesters blocked his way.

The crowd, carrying banners attacking the Government's education cuts, threw yoghurt over the minister who was helped by the university vice-chancellor, two policemen and his aides.

After the incident Mr Baker said: "No minister of this Government will be deterred by a mob of ruffians and looters. I suspect that most of them were not even from the university."

Mr Baker added: "The rim of my glasses were broken. I also had strawberry yoghurt thrown on my suit and someone kicked my shin and drew blood. I like yoghurt, but I'd rather eat it. I will always enter and leave a building through the front door and no one is going to stop me."

Mr Eugene Arkaisamy,

Students' Union president, said his organization had nothing to do with the demonstration. He did not condone the actions of the protesters.

Leicester University Students' Union is among those under investigation by the Department of Education and Science for alleged political activities.

Dr Kenneth Edwards, vice-chancellor of Leicester, said it was too early to say who was behind the demonstration.

"Many of the gathering looked too old to be undergraduates and I did not recognize anyone."

However Miss Mary Anderson, a student at Leicester, said: "Baker is the butcher of the education system and it serves him right. He deserves a good hiding. I hope he never returns to this university. He's not welcome."

Jack O'Connell, treasurer of the students' union, said: "I witnessed the scenes and I was thoroughly disgusted by the behaviour."

The union decided after two meetings not to hold or sanction a demonstration. The demonstration was organized mainly by political groups.

Israeli revenge raids kill 15 in Lebanon

From Juan Carlos Guncie, west Beirut, and Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Israel, acting swiftly on its promise to avenge the deaths of seven soldiers killed by a Muslim suicide car-bomber, yesterday launched air strikes in southern Lebanon.

Fifteen people were reported killed and at least 35 wounded in the raids against Palestinian and Lebanese guerrilla positions by Israeli F15 warplanes and helicopter gunships.

The attacks prompted a series of threats from Islamic groups. The pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad group said the air

strikes would not go unpunished and hinted that it would harm its two American hostages, Mr Terry Anderson and Mr Thomas Sutherland. The statement appeared authentic and was accompanied by a photograph of Mr Anderson.

The Israeli attack was one of most violent Israeli operations in Lebanon this year. Waves of fighter-bombers struck targets near the Palestinian refugee camps of Mieh Mieh and Ein el-Helweh, near Sidon, and helicopter gunships hit a Hezbollah convoy

near Mashgara in the Bekaa valley, where most of the casualties occurred.

The raids destroyed ammunition depots, guerrilla offices and training bases, but they also were said to have devastated a clinic operated by pro-Iranian fundamentalists of the Hezbollah, or Party of God, the organization which claimed responsibility for the suicide attack near the border on Wednesday.

The strikes against Hezbollah targets will have gone some way towards satisfying

Israeli public opinion, which wanted swift, tough reprisals for the car bombing. At the same time the raids are unlikely to have killed or injured the individuals responsible for helping the suicide car bomber to mount his attack. Nor have they destroyed the thin network of undercover Hezbollah supporters which made the bombing possible.

But Islamic Jihad, believed to be operating within Hezbollah, warned in a statement: "Criminal America should know it will not get away with

this, especially in relation to the fate of those we detain, so that it will be a lesson to whoever hits the dignity of our people and nation."

The spiritual mentor of Hezbollah, Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, told a crowd of Shia Muslim worshippers in Beirut: "Our holy warriors strike at soldiers and they (the Israelis) strike at civilians."

He made it clear there would soon be a Muslim response to the attacks. "Our arm is longer than Israel's."

Thatcher widens assault on EEC

From Roger Boyes, Palazzo, Northern Italy

Mrs Thatcher yesterday launched a new assault on the idea of a European central bank and warned against any vision of Europe that sacrificed or suppressed national sovereignty.

The Prime Minister, whose crusade against full European economic and political union began in Brussels, Belgium, last month, made her latest statement to the distinct discomfort of her host, Signor Ciriaco De Mita, the Italian Prime Minister.

Quite plainly Britain and Italy are at odds about Europe in 1992. Signor De Mita stressed that "even limited agreement on an economic level, if not followed by political steps, will cause difficulty".

Mrs Thatcher, by contrast, dismissed the idea of a politically rather than economically integrated Europe. "Some

want a United States of Europe. I don't think it's possible. Any analogy with the United States of America is false ... 1992 does not need any more changes. We need agreement on methods and we need the agreement of each and every country to get to 1992."

There seems little ground for compromise on the European central bank. In so far as such a bank meant "surrounding your economic policy" Britain would not give ground, she said. "I neither want nor expect to see in my life time nor indeed, twanging my harp, after my life time such an institution."

Mrs Thatcher was also said to have dampened the spirits of Signor De Mita, recently back from Moscow, on the question of the seriousness of change in the Soviet Union.

Ailing perezhivka, page 7

Beware of temptation



Do not turn the page.

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Wrest bache
by Barry Gill
The most eligible young woman
in all of the community of
the island near Puerto
Rico.
The children of the island have
to go in to town
and are simple-minded
and are left. Only
the young men, riding on
the horses and crossing on
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The Mr. Marquardt, of the
United States for Puerto Rico.

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Travel agent fined £6,000 over air fare cash cutting

By Mark Souster and Harvey Elliott

A travel agent who exploited what he said was a loophole in airline tariffs to save clients thousands of pounds in fares was fined £6,000 at Isleworth Crown Court, west London, yesterday after being convicted of 12 counts of forgery.

Paul Richer, aged 32, managing director of Drake-well Travel, Kingston-upon-Thames, south-west London, used a complex system known as "cross-border ticketing" for six years, which airlines claim has cost them more than £1 million.

Richer, of Wentworth-Haven, Thames Ditton, Surrey, used his intricate knowledge of airline price structures to save clients, many of them business customers, thousands of pounds. Recorder William Glover, QC, said "eminent" people and firms had been involved.

Richer, married with two children, took advantage of ticket price differences from airports around the world. He found it was cheaper to fly from Athens to New York via London than to travel direct from London to New York.

Richer would create an itinerary starting, for example, in Harare, changing in London and ending in New York. Only the London-New York leg was booked with the airline. Richer would then remove the coupons in the ticket for the earlier unused legs.

He obtained most tickets from American travel agents, one in particular being Rainbow Travel, Las Vegas, who supplied him with blank validated tickets which he filled in himself. Among Richer's customers were Pickfords, American Express and Thomas Cook, and passengers included Sir Thomas Hetherington, the former

Director of Public Prosecutions.

The jury returned a unanimous verdict but on the direction of the recorder they found Richer not guilty on 12 charges each of false accounting and concealing a valuable security.

The recorder told Richer that a criminal offence had been committed but added: "It appears that the practice which you were engaged in was one engaged in by a considerable number of people, eminent people and eminent firms... and you were not alone in this."

He said it would be impossible to determine exactly how much airlines had lost through cross-border ticketing.

Before he was convicted, Richer explained some of the differences in price structures.

He said a passenger travelling first class from London to New York on British Airways would pay £1,440. The same passenger, travelling from Johannesburg to New York via London would pay £1,097. And a flight from Zurich to New York via London would cost £1,131, as opposed to £1,440 direct.

Richer said his annual turnover last year had reached £4.5 million, of which about 6 per cent was gross profit. He said discounting of air tickets among big airlines was commonplace.

He said: "The airlines are guilty of gross hypocrisy because there is not one which does not discount tickets, and that is in breach of CAA rules."

British Airways charged what it thought the market could bear, he added.

"It's strange. You have got a staunchly pro-competitive government in power but an

airline which seems to indulge in anti-competitive prices. EA controls 70 per cent of the traffic out of the United Kingdom."

Airlines estimate they lose up to £500 million a year through cross-border sales.

The most popular countries involved are Poland, Hungary, Greece and Egypt.

The business took off about five years ago when airlines were desperate to fill their aircraft. Many unsold tickets are made available "under the counter" to so-called bucket shop operators who buy them direct from airlines at the last moment and offer them for sale direct to the public, usually through small advertisements in newspapers.

At the same time operators exploited every possible avenue to obtain low-cost tickets to meet the enormous demand for cheap travel.

Within the past year, however, airlines have experienced a dramatic improvement in their fortunes and most now fly fully laden aircraft with passengers paying the full fare.

Airlines subsequently introduced their own cut-price offers to cater for people prepared to book and pay at the very last moment.

There is now a determined effort to stamp out the sale of cross-border tickets.

Cross bordering is attractive not only because it creates savings for the passenger but, until recently, it was an easy way for the airline to obtain at least some money for a seat which would otherwise have remained unsold.

Now they are not so keen because they know that if the ticket had been offered for the stated price it would probably have been sold anyway.

Restaurateur badly hurt in fire



Mr Peter Langan (top), the restaurateur, who was seriously ill with burns last night after a fire at his home in Essex (above, right), and (left) his wife, Susan, who broke an ankle jumping from a first-floor balcony to escape.

By Michael Horsnell and Andrew Moger

Mr Peter Langan, the flamboyant restaurateur, was seriously ill last night after undergoing emergency surgery for first-degree burns caused by a fire at his country home.

The outbreak of the fire, said to be of "dubious origin", is believed to have followed an argument with his wife Susan, who broke her ankle leaping from the first-floor bedroom balcony to escape. Mr Langan, aged 47, owner of the celebrated Langan's Brasserie in Mayfair, central London, where he is famous for his eccentric behaviour, was un-

conscious but in a stable condition in a burns unit at a hospital in Essex.

Detectives were waiting to interview him to find out what happened but arson has not been ruled out and it is believed Mr Langan may have accidentally set himself alight.

The couple had allegedly argued while dining out together in Colchester on Thursday evening and then returned to their home in the Essex village of Alphenstone, near the Suffolk border.

Neighbours, who tended both of them, alerted police and firemen shortly before 4am yesterday.

The house, situated in extensive grounds about 10 miles from Langan's

Restaurant in Coggeshall, a rural version of the London brasserie which Mr Langan founded with Michael Caine, the actor, was severely damaged by the fire which took two hours to bring under control.

Det Insp David Delamain, who is leading the inquiry into the incident, said: "We are investigating whether Mr Langan set light to himself."

Mr Langan was taken to Colchester General Hospital and then transferred to the special burns unit at St Andrew's Hospital, Billericay, where he underwent major skin graft surgery.

Mrs Langan was treated for her broken ankle at the Colchester hospital and released.

NEXT WEEK



The jury on TRIAL

- Trial by jury was once considered the corner-stone of British justice. Has it now become a stumbling-block?
- A man can be challenged as a juror because of the cut of his suit — a woman because of her sex.
- If you were on trial, how confident would you be... how confident should you be?
- Starting tomorrow *The Times* asks lawyers, police, judges — and jurors: are the "men" still good and true — or biased, ignorant and prejudiced?
- Read their verdict in a major series in *The Times* next week.

£266,000

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

- A Warwickshire teacher is planning a staff room celebration after winning a half share of yesterday's £4,000 Portfolio prize.
- Mr Arne Olsen, a joint headmaster and English teacher from Rugby, has been a *Times* reader for 30 years. He shares his win with Mr Stewart Sinclair of Burwell, Cambridgeshire.
- There is £266,000 to be won in Portfolio Accumulator today — or the weekly £8,000 prize.

Prices: page 21

Engineers need range of knowledge

Reading *The Times* is particularly important for engineering students because they are involved with the "whole range of human activity from inventing equipment to using it advantageously. It is not just the 'specialist' knowledge of the Engineering Council, said Mr Denis Filer, director general of the Engineering Council, said: "The engineer of tomorrow will be a technological manager, and will need to know about all aspects of life including finance and international business."

"The paper has become an

THE TIMES PRESSPASS

important part of my daily life. In my present job I must say that I keep a special eye on *The Times*, he said. "I think all students going into any profession should read newspapers and I personally welcome *The Times* Presspass discount scheme for students. In my job as director

general, although I watch it in particular for stories on education and training, I also find the business section in *The Times* very useful to me. As a member of the council's management in the British Industrial scene, *The Times* has given great support to the Engineering Council in its first formative years and this has helped to spread the message about engineering and technology in particular to students of this country", he added. Coupon, section 4, page 54

Herbal remedy gains official status

By Pearce Wright Science Editor

In an unprecedented move the Department of Health yesterday made a new treatment for eczema, which afflicts over two million people in Britain, available on prescription.

The active ingredient of the drug, Epocam, is based on the oil of the evening primrose which has been available as an over-the-counter supplement for 10 years and has a long history of herbal use.

Sir James Black, who was awarded the Nobel prize for medicine this week, is a non-executive director of a research-based company, Scotia Pharmaceuticals, at Guildford, Surrey, which has been testing the action of the oil of the evening primrose.

He says the research results

A new attempt to raise millions of pounds for the health service through a national lottery was launched yesterday with a possible first prize of £200,000.

The organisers believe they have overcome legal problems which brought about the sudden collapse of the original lottery last May.

They hope that the health show that a range of diseases may be treated eventually by derivatives of the evening primrose oil which has been officially ignored for years.

The preparation, which has been approved by the Committee for Safety of Medicines, is described as "unusually safe" because it is based on using a natural substance to replace a deficiency in the body. It

service will receive as much as £17.5 million from the sales of 50 million tickets in the first year of operation.

One hundred branches around the country will run individual lotteries within the national organization and up to 16 million entry coupons are being delivered to households. The first draw will be on TV-am on November 4.

should also reduce the need for medicines such as steroids, which can have side effects. A million people in Britain may suffer from a potentially fatal sleeping disorder in which they could snore themselves to death (Thomson Prentice writes).

The condition, sleep apnoea syndrome, involves people with abnormally narrow

throats. Relaxation of the throat muscles during sleep causes further narrowing and can prevent oxygen reaching the lungs.

The syndrome can be "potentially disastrous" in extreme cases, according to Dr Keith Prowse, of the department of respiratory medicine at the City General Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent.

Writing in the *British Journal of Diseases of the Chest*, Dr Prowse says that in people with the disorder "snoring is so loud that the spouse moves to a separate bedroom. At times there is a particularly loud and explosive snore, accompanied by a flailing of the limbs and thrashing around the bed". Evidence suggests that sufferers are at risk of strokes, heart attacks and raised blood pressure.

Bereft bachelors need road to the isle

By Kerry Gill

A failure to retain eligible young women may finally kill off the community of Vatersay, the tiny island near Barra in the Western Isles.

The population of the island has dwindled from 130 to 60 in less than seven years and no single women of marriageable age are left. Only 20 families remain on Vatersay, eking out a living fishing for lobsters and crofting on the three square miles.

Yesterday, Mr Joe Macdonnell, of the Council of Social Services for Barra and

Vatersay, said: "A causeway would make all the difference and bring the island into the 20th century."

Mr Donald Campbell, whose wife runs the Vatersay post office, said: "The island has to have a causeway. Even bringing building materials means having to use the ferry." No private houses have been built on Vatersay for more than 50 years.

The campaign for a 300-yard causeway is hampered by local government restrictions. The European Community has promised half the cost and the rest has to be found by the Scottish Office and

the Western Isles Islands Council. The causeway is expected to cost almost £4 million. The whole cost must be included within the council's capital allocation, although three-quarters of the cost coming from elsewhere.

The Scottish Office said: "It is for the islands' council to find a place for the causeway in their capital allocation. They have asked for a special allocation but so far we have been unable to meet this within the resources available."

Meanwhile, the bachelors on Vatersay stare wistfully across the sound as eligible young women leave the island.

A TIMES EXCLUSIVE OFFER



A PETIT CHATEAU CLARET FROM THE VICTORIA WINE COMPANY



And only in The Times on Monday 24th October

Conviction of Greenham women upheld

Protesters challenging Ministry of Defence by-laws under which thousands of people have been prosecuted for illegally entering military bases lost their case at the High Court in London yesterday.

Women from the Greenham Common camp broke into protest songs in court as Lord Justice Mann and Mr Justice Schiemann upheld their convictions.

Jean Hutchinson and Georgina Smith were convicted in 1986. The crown court quashed the convictions, but the Director of Public Prosecutions went to appeal.

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Stolen cheques claim 'a fraud'

Stephen Olley, aged 25, a tobaccoist and minicab driver who sued American Express over their refusal to refund £25,000-worth of travellers cheques which he claimed were stolen half an hour after he bought them, was branded a fraud by a High Court judge in London yesterday. And to make matters worse for him, Mr Justice Drake reported Mr Olley, of Herbert Road, Hextable, Kent, to the Inland Revenue.

"I simply don't believe most of what he has told me", the judge said. "I think he was in some way a party to an attempt to defraud American Express and I have formed the clear opinion, from having seen and heard him, that this is a fraudulent claim and must be dismissed." The judge also directed that a transcript of Mr Olley's evidence about his income in 1986 should be sent to the Inland Revenue and ordered him to pay an estimated £10,000 bill for the legal costs of the case.

Ten in fumes checks

Four firemen and a policeman were among 10 people taken to hospital yesterday after they came into contact with chemical fumes from an overheated oven at a factory in Market Harborough, Leicestershire. The 10 were released from Kettering General Hospital after checks for the effects of naphthalene disocyanate, a chemical which can cause irritation. Firemen wearing breathing apparatus and protective "splash" suits had been called to Texane Ltd, on the Welland Valley Industrial Estate, yesterday.

War museum closure

The Imperial War Museum is closing its public galleries from Monday week for an extensive overhaul which will provide four floors of exhibition space. They will reopen on March 19, 1989, in advance of the museum's relaunch in June. The reference departments will remain open but readers are asked to book visits. The museum's outstations, HMS Belfast, the Cabinet War Rooms and Duxford Airfield, Cambridgeshire, will open as normal.

Jail dispute called off

Prison officers at the last jail involved in month-long industrial action have called off their dispute. At a meeting, after Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, had said officers would be suspended if they did not return to work, Walton Prison, Liverpool, voted to begin admitting convicted offenders into the jail from Monday. Officers had claimed that the jail was overcrowded and the prison management had promised a review into staffing levels.

More Legion cases

Five more cases of Legionnaires' disease were confirmed yesterday in the outbreak at the British Aerospace factory in Bolton, Greater Manchester, bringing the total to 21 with 17 others under investigation. However, one of the victims contracted the pneumonia-like disease from another source, possibly abroad. Not all the victims work at the plant. Most live in Bolton and neighbouring Wigan, but they had been in or near the plant.

Short in chess win

Nigel Short, the British chess grandmaster, defeated Eugene Torre of the Philippines in Manila yesterday, making their six-game series 2-2. In Reykjavik, Garry Kasparov is in joint second place in the World Cup chess tournament with a fellow Russian, Jan Ehlvest, and half a point behind is another Russian, Alexander Beljavsky. There are three rounds left.

British women reach bridge olympiad final

Britain's women reached the final of the World Contract Bridge women's olympiad in Venice by defeating Canada 165-149 after being down with four deals to go.

In the second semi-final Denmark beat Bulgaria by 126-112. The British women's team is Michelle Brunner, Pat Davies, Sandra Landy, Elizabeth McGowan, Sandra Penfold and Nicola Smith, with Gratian Endicott as non-playing captain.

The United States and Austria started their 96-deal final yesterday for the men's team olympiad championship. The United States defeated India 190-126 in the semi-final on Thursday while Austria, down 20.7 points at the outset because of a carry over from a round robin match, came from behind to defeat Sweden by 182-131.

The Americans are starting the final against Austria with an advantage, a carry over from the round robin tournament of 19.7 points.

YTS-trained success rate more than 75 per cent

By Roland Budd
Employment Affairs Reporter

More than 75 per cent of people leaving the Youth Training Scheme find jobs, become self-employed or take up further education or training, according to figures released yesterday by the Government's Training Agency.

The Department of Employment said yesterday that the fall in the number of young people over the next few years and the increasing demand for skilled labour underlined the importance of the scheme to produce a more flexible and well-trained workforce.

The scheme, which is open to all those aged 16 and 17 who are not in full-time education or employment, is set to rise to 423,000 by 1989.

Mr Roger Dawe, director general of the Training Agency, said yesterday: "YTS is a story of achievement. The 400,000 young people in training shows that the Government's guarantee to young people has effectively been met."

However, the environment in which YTS is run is changing. We now have a rapid drop in the numbers of young people and the general level of economic activity is rising. The industrial community will need a higher level of skills from new recruits to make the scheme more cost effective, with more emphasis on successful qualifications.

Although there are still important bleak spots in Scotland, Wales and the Northern region, where up to 35 per cent of trainees leaving the scheme remain unemployed, the Government is confident that fewer youngsters finishing the training programme will remain unemployed.

Mr Patrick Nicholls, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Employment, said there "has never been a better time to be unemployed" because of the demographic changes, which are expected to make further inroads into youth unemployment.

The number of employers who are actively involved in the scheme has increased from around 100,000 in 1985-86 to about 150,000, accounting for a fifth of all companies.

Local surveys of employers show that participation is higher in growing firms and those using new technology. Large companies are more likely to participate than small firms, but three in five companies which provide work experience for YTS trainees employ 10 or fewer workers.

The latest issue of *Labour Market*, produced by the Training Agency

(formerly the Training Commission) shows how the scheme is helping small employers to take part in training by linking them to larger managing agents who can undertake many of the administrative and recruitment chores which small companies find difficult.

Since April managing agents have had to achieve approved training organization status by satisfying the Training Agency that they are complying with the criteria relating to the programme.

They are paid a fixed management fee for each contracted trainee placed and weekly grants for training undertaken. Higher grants are awarded for young people who cannot be placed with employers or need special support.

The report shows how YTS supplies an important proportion of the long-duration training. Qualifications gained under the scheme are increasing as more are covered by new competence-based vocational awards approved by the National Council for Vocational Qualifications.

A campaign to introduce training to excluded groups has been launched to offset exacerbating skill shortages by leaving out disadvantaged groups from the training market. Young women now account for nearly half of all those starting under the scheme. Most were in the traditional female employment areas of clerical, sales and personal services.

The Training Agency is to encourage more employer-led schemes to take trainees from ethnic minorities after the latest figures available showed that only 14,000 YTS trainees (3.3 per cent of the total) are from those groups.

Haughey distressed by Government's attack on Sinn Fein

By Jamie Dettmer, Irish Affairs Correspondent

The robust measures unleashed this week by British ministers against Sinn Fein have caused almost as much distress to the Dublin Government as they have to the IRA.

Anglo-Irish relations are likely to suffer and the review of the Hillsborough accord, announced in the Commons yesterday, will be a rougher process than expected.

Irish ministers complain that the British Government has once again shown scant regard for the delicacy of their political position. They also believe the speed of the British moves in banning Sinn Fein from the airwaves and ending the right to silence for defendants has, in the eyes of voters, weakened the case for the Anglo-Irish agreement.

Dublin was told about the sanctions only the day before each was announced. "What does that say for the importance of the Anglo-Irish agreement?" asked one MP from Mr Charles Haughey's Fianna Fail Party.

Even before this week, nearly 90 per cent of Fianna Fail constituency parties have called for the scrapping of the eight-month-old extradition agreement. Dislike for the treaty has grown rapidly within the party since an opinion poll showed that less than a third of the electorate supported it.

This week's events have placed Mr Haughey's government in a dilemma: how can it complain about measures which are also in force in the Irish Republic? Interviews with members of Sinn Fein and other organizations linked with terrorist groups have been banned there for nearly 20 years.

British ministers were also quick to point out that the ending of the right to silence brought Britain into line with the Irish Republic, where the 1984 Criminal Justice Act limits the right to silence in serious offences. Irish government spokesmen disputed British parallels with their own Act, saying the limitation in the Irish Republic was discredited and not used.

However, to the security forces in Northern Ireland, Dublin's rejection of the parallel is lame. The Irish Republic would probably invoke it if faced with a relentless terror campaign.

Fianna Fail leaders complained on the silence issue because they knew their constituency parties demanded that reaction. Dublin also felt pushed by the SDLP, Northern Ireland's moderate nationalist party, which criticized the new measures.

Fianna Fail is likely to find the road ahead increasingly uncomfortable. Its disapproval of the IRA is not in doubt but it is a party that relies on the "green card".

If the Anglo-Irish agreement is to work, Fianna Fail will have to shed some of its past. Sinn Fein leaders have been studying for the past six months how to set up a network of mobile pirate stations, it emerged yesterday.

Republicans believe they have the technical expertise to broadcast illegal programmes.

Revivalist Ridley



Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, in one of the rundown areas of Leeds yesterday where he unveiled a £15 million redevelopment package designed to regenerate 1,340 acres. He then buried a time capsule under a riverside office project. (Photograph: Asadour Guzelian)

Sinclair enters TV satellite market

By Robert Matthews, Technology Correspondent

Sir Clive Sinclair, the inventor, announced plans yesterday to produce satellite television aerials for less than £150 to tune into broadcasts from the Astra satellite due for launch by the end of the year.

The announcement puts Sir Clive in direct competition with the hi-tech entrepreneur Mr Alan Sugar, of Amstrad, who has plans to launch a similar dish for £199 early in the new year.

The basic Sinclair model, which is to be made in Britain and sold by Sir Clive's Cambridge Computer company, will be a two-foot wide flat, square aerial, and come with all the necessary television connection equipment. However, those wanting stereo sound will have to pay another £80, pushing the cost to £230.

Few details of the Amstrad aerial have been announced, other than it will at least as big as the Sinclair model. Shortly after the Sinclair announcement Amstrad said that stereo reception would be included in its basic model, making it cheaper than its rival's equivalent model.

Sir Clive remained confident that his model will have the edge, however, claiming that some of the aerials being offered for satellite television would not work in certain parts of the country.

Mellor in clash with the social services

By Peter Davenport

Mr David Mellor, Minister of State for Health, faced a barrage of criticism from social services directors yesterday when he told them at their annual conference in Newcastle upon Tyne that he was disturbed by Cleveland County Council's decision not to discipline two senior officers criticized after the Butler-Sloss child abuse inquiry.

Because of the decision to send a team of officers from the Social Services Inspectorate to Cleveland on Monday, Mr Mellor was accused of mounting a vendetta and a witchhunt.

Mr Tony Flynn, chairman of Newcastle upon Tyne social services, for accused the Government of persecuting Mr Michael Bishop, Cleveland's social services director, and Mrs Sue Richardson, child abuse consultant, by its vindictive approach.

Each accusation was met by loud applause but Mr Mellor responded with equal vehemence. He said: "While we are in the business of home truths, I think this is the only gathering in the country I can imagine where people would applaud statements of the kind just made. You are showing the people out there that there is a peculiar inwardness about this particular kind of activity that fails to come to terms with what Cleveland meant to people in the country."

"I don't think social service covers itself in glory by excessive protectiveness of people who have been subject to clear investigation by reputable people and whose efforts have been found wanting."

He described the allegations that the Government was operating a witchhunt as "drivel". Ministers were under a duty to ensure that such a serious scandal as Cleveland could never happen again.

The minister has also written to the Northern Regional Health Authority asking for an early report on the outcome of its deliberations about the future of the two consultant paediatricians at the centre of the crisis.

The last straw for Thatcher

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

The Government's decision to fight the IRA with the law rather than the Army was made after security chiefs told Mrs Margaret Thatcher that they knew 90 per cent of the front line IRA terrorists but did not have the ability to convict them in court.

The new legal steps announced by the Government were drawn up only after an angry demand by the Prime Minister two months ago that fresh vision and political will were needed to demonstrate to the IRA that the Government was no longer prepared to let

the Northern Ireland issue "drift on". "Mrs Thatcher's ultimatum to Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, was handed out last August after the coach bombing in Omagh in which eight soldiers were killed. Mr King was told that "this time" something had to be done.

Only five months earlier, the same agonizing had taken place at Number 10, after the murder of two NCs who had driven into an IRA funeral.

Despite urgent consultations between Number 10, the

Northern Ireland Office and the Ministry of Defence, nothing materialised. All the options which were yesterday announced as part of the anti-terrorist package, were available in March.

The Omagh coach bombing made Mrs Thatcher realize that the only way to hurt the IRA was to remove from them rights and privileges which frequently enabled them to escape conviction. As one source said: "It was all a question of political will, which, until now, had been singularly lacking."

£190m grant for poll tax computers and clerks

By David Walker
Public Administration Correspondent

Government anxiety about the capacity of councils to bring in sufficient amounts of poll tax broke surface yesterday when it announced a £190 million package to help local authorities to buy computers and employ new clerical staff.

The money, a higher figure than the Government previously accepted was needed, is to be paid on a special formula reflecting that in some areas residents are going to be more difficult to track. That will mean higher grants to councils such as Lambeth and Camden in London, controlled by Labour. Making the announcement,

Mr John Gummer, Minister for Local Government, said: "It would be unfair to deprive such boroughs of help."

The payments would be based in part on numbers of private tenants in each area. Private tenants often live in multi-occupied dwellings, which are likely to present poll tax collectors with their biggest challenge.

The package, to be paid next year, breaks down into £55 million assistance for staff and running costs and £135 million to pay for new offices and equipment. That is in addition to £25 million allocated in 1988-89 for the initial costs of setting up registers of poll tax payers.

Mr Gummer also indicated that the Government intends to be flexible

with its general support payments to councils in the run-up to April 1990, when the new system of council finance comes into operation in England and Wales. In Scotland, poll tax is introduced from next year.

The minister gave details of a new poll tax Bill which is being introduced to end the present rate support grant arrangements and which the Government wants to have enacted by the end of the parliamentary session. "This will ensure a smooth transition to the new system," he said.

Penalties to high spending councils are to be dropped. Councils will qualify for grants in 1989-90 not on the basis of what they would like to spend but on what they spent in the three years up to July 1988. Using

those figures, the Government hopes to avoid councils using creative accounting in the last year before poll tax to qualify for extra amounts.

Mr Gummer conceded that the Department of the Environment has won the Treasury's backing for a contingency fund in case it has to pay out more to councils next year than previous estimates allowed for. He confirmed that rate caps will stay.

A poll of councillors in Scotland has found that more than a quarter are prepared to refuse to pay the poll tax. The survey, carried out for Grampian Television by the University of Strathclyde, showed that 75 per cent of 1,600 district and regional councillors oppose the tax.

Govan by-election, page 6

October 21 1988

PARLIAMENT

Schools urged to gear up for industry's needs

The Government's determination to see the educational system geared to the needs of industry was emphasized by Mr John Birtcher, Under-Secretary of State for Education, when he opened a Commons debate.

He said that many schools were still reflecting the old division between education for work and education for life. There could no longer be such division.

More than half the firms covered by a CBI survey had no regular links with schools. That had to change. The time had arrived for the development of links between schools and the business world.

There was a growing and healthy interest in ways to make education more employer-friendly and ways in which employers could acquire a greater understanding of the objectives of education.

For too long, education has been seen as being about academic achievement alone and



Mr Birtcher: We have neglected the enterprise culture.

sciences or arts or professions. "This has been at the expense of the acquisition of understanding and skills with industrial applications. You could say we have neglected the enterprise culture to our cost."

The national curriculum under the Education Reform Act would produce education that was broad, balanced, relevant to needs and set in a moral framework.

Mr Derek Fatchett, an Oppo-

sition spokesman on education, said that the education system had to be broad and should not be developed just to provide people for a slot in industry.

There was a teacher shortage crisis in maths, physics and foreign languages, the very subjects at the core of the national curriculum. The Government appeared to be taking no measures to ensure that there was a sufficiently large and motivated teaching force.

Too many youngsters left school at 16. In South Korea seven out of ten youngsters left school at 18 with technical qualifications equivalent to A-level or above. That was a challenge the Education Reform Act did not begin to meet.

The Government should return to the provision of long-term training courses for youngsters, either employer-based or college-based.

Mr Tim Rathbone (Lewes, C) said that despite its great success, the Open University was facing financial pressures that put its programmes at risk.

It would be needed more than ever in future, whether as a first

or second chance provider of further education. It claimed, with justification, to offer the most cost-effective source of training, retraining and reskilling.

It deserved support and its future ought to be assured by additional block grants.

Mr Iwan Jones (Ynys Mon, Pl C) said that proper education and training was essential to protect communities in Wales from massive rural depopulation. A diverse, vibrant and healthy local economy depended on a well-educated and properly trained workforce.

Mr James Parry (Rugby and Kenilworth, C), chairman of the Conservative backbench education committee, regretted

the failure of some local education authorities to make redundant schools available for City Technology Colleges. The development of CTCs should be accelerated. Each month lost meant more children deprived of a valuable educational opportunity.

Mr Harry Greenway (Ealing North, C) said that bad school discipline, truancy and poor work did more to damage links with industry than anything else.

If as in some London schools, there was 40 per cent truancy every day, with other pupils out of control in the school, children were not going to be in a position to profit very much from such links.

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Private pilots face tougher rules in CAA safety drive

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

A drive to improve the safety record of Britain's private flyers is being launched by the Civil Aviation Authority after a significant rise in fatal light aircraft accidents.

More than 50 people died last year in 27 accidents involving light aircraft, compared with eight fatal accidents in 1986, 14 in 1985 and 10 in 1984.

The toll prompted an official investigation into the causes which disclosed alarming gaps in the legislation governing flying training schools, the competence of the pilots and the control over their aerobically manoeuvres.

Now the authority plans to tighten regulations governing the way pilots are trained, licensed and fly in an attempt to make private flying in British airspace as safe as in the United States and many other parts of the world.

Among proposals drawn up by the authority which will be sent out for discussion within the industry are a biennial check of a pilot's competence; registration of training schools; minimum heights established for aerobics; bet-

ter distribution of meteorological information; and an improved safety educational programme.

Many of the recommendations are certain to be resisted by private pilots who have guarded jealously their rights to fly how, when and where they like within uncontrolled airspace, but the authority is determined to press ahead with many of the changes.

Once qualified, private pilots have only to show that they have flown for a minimum of five hours a year to renew their licence. The authority wants to introduce a two-yearly check on com-

petence "covering stall-spin awareness, forced landings, handling skills and any legislative or operational changes since the last review".

That, it says, would be a "common sense safety measure that should apply to all private pilot licence holders who wish to exercise the privileges of their licence".

The report by the authority also claims that the expanding airline industry is snapping up many experienced instructors from flying schools so "diluting experience at all levels of instructing".

The authority no longer has to approve a flying school and, provided the instructors have obtained the correct licence, anyone can set up in business. Now the authority wants to resume responsibility for approving such schools, as it did until last year.

It accepts that it has no idea how many private pilots there are in Britain, although it is estimated that around 16,000 fly regularly.

In 20 of the 27 fatal accidents in 1987 the blame was placed on the pilots.

Hats off famous heads



Two minds with a single thought, as Laurel and Hardy very nearly said, came together yesterday under a pair of the great comedians' bowlers, which are for auction next month at Christie's in South Kensington. The hats could fetch up to £25,000; the fetching models are Claire Bevan (left), and Laura MacDonagall, both aged four (Photograph: Marc Aspland).

Entry ban on two Yugoslavs confirmed

By Kerry Gill

Two Yugoslavs were refused entry by immigration officials at Glasgow airport on Monday, it emerged yesterday after the shooting of a Yugoslav dissident in Kirkcaldy, Fife.

The Home Office confirmed that the two men were stopped after disembarking from a flight and, after questioning, they were not considered to be genuine visitors. The men were put on a aircraft back to Yugoslavia.

As police from Fife Constabulary flew back to Scotland yesterday with a man suspected of being involved in the shooting of Mr Nikolei Stedul, the dissident, on Thursday, there was speculation that the two men were part of an alleged assassination squad sent to find Mr Stedul, aged 50.

Mr Stedul was hit by several bullets as he left his home. The gunman got away in a Metro car but hours later police apprehended a man at Heathrow airport.

Mr George Foulkes, Labour MP for Carmarck, Cumnock and Doon Valley, called for a government inquiry into how a man was able to apparently enter the country and carry out the shooting.

Mr Stedul was said to be stable last night in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

Baby's killer watched TV after attack

By Craig Seton

A young mother screamed abuse at a judge yesterday when a killer who left her son dying for six hours while he watched television was jailed for five years.

Miss Sharon Gardner, aged 19, was wrestled to the floor by three court officials when she tried to hurl a glass jar at the killer when he was sentenced at Birmingham Court Court. Miss Gardner then pointed to members of her former boyfriend's family, screaming obscenities and clawing at their clothes.

The court was told that Adolphus Wickham battered Mickel Gardner, aged 22 months, banged the child's head against the wall and shook him violently. As Wickham was sentenced Miss Gardner screamed at him: "You killed my baby. You should have got life, you bastard."

Mr James Hunt, QC, for the prosecution, said that Wickham, aged 21, had calmly watched television for six hours while the child lay unconscious in Miss Gardner's house.

Wickham, of Paul Byrne Court, Robert Road, Handsworth, pleaded not guilty to murder but guilty to manslaughter.

He had been living with Miss Gardner for a few months and often hit her son, the court was told. Last June 6 Miss Gardner left the boy with Wickham while she saw a friend. Wickham had told her: "Why don't you leave him with me, don't you trust me?"

When she came back to the house her son was lying unconscious on the floor. She telephoned for a doctor while Wickham continued to watch television. Mickel was admitted to Smethwick neurosurgical hospital where he died three days later.

Action demanded on working hours

By Our Air Correspondent

European airline pilots yesterday demanded urgent action by the EEC to limit their working hours and to force individual governments to spend more money on air traffic control.

Mr Vic Scrivens, president of Euro Pilots, which represents more than 12,000 professional pilots throughout the Community, said yesterday: "Many countries are raising many millions of pounds from charging airlines for air traffic control over their territory yet not investing that in infrastructure".

A three-day conference of Euro Pilots held in Vienna this week was told that at one airport a modern control tower which looked impressive from the outside was empty and controllers were working on antiquated equipment near by. "Airlines spend many mil-

lions on new aircraft and computers to enable them to have instant communication around their network and yet the infrastructure on which they and the passengers depend is not there. We believe there should be a centralized control of the funding so that those areas in which the problems are most serious can get money directly to spend on essential computers and radars as well as increase the number of controllers they employ", Mr Scrivens said.

The pilots are also urging the EEC to impose strict limits on the hours worked by pilots to prevent fatigue. Most of their proposals which are being put to the EEC, are based on existing British rules governing pilots' working hours. According to Euro Pilots many other countries do not have such strict control.

Toxic waste signs near Piper Alpha

By Kerry Gill

Traces of highly toxic chemical waste have been found on the accommodation modules recovered from the site of the Piper Alpha platform and in surrounding mud, according to the platform's operators.

Occidental said the traces, believed to be from four transformers on the rig, presented no health threat but sampling and analysis would be carried out to discover exactly what had happened to the fluids.

The oil company yesterday said the transformers contained nine tonnes of fluid of which 60 per cent were polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The bulk of the PCBs had almost certainly escaped and either burnt up during the explosions on July 6 or evaporated in the resulting blaze.

Occidental said the traces could be consistent with evaporation. There was no evidence of a major release into the sea and water samples showed no contamination.

The main accommodation module, thought to contain most of the 111 men still missing from the disaster in which 167 men were killed, was due to arrive at the Flotta

terminal in Scapa Flow, Orkney, last night.

The module left the Moray Firth on the north-east coast of Scotland on Thursday night after weather improved and will be prepared for the search by Grampian Police.

The search will take place after the module has been made secure by engineering workers and is expected to take up to two months.

Once bodies are found they will be flown to Aberdeen for scientific identification. Workers and police engaged in the task have been given psychological counselling.

Expert financial advice is to be offered to dependents of Piper Alpha victims once compensation payments are agreed, according to the solicitor representing the interests of the majority of families.

Compensation is likely to be as much as £1.2 million and families will need advice on how to invest the money.

Mr David Burnside, the lawyer leading the group representing the bereaved, said once agreement had been made advisers would be on hand to help families and dependents.

UK ferry safety plans may be watered down

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

Proposals for improving the safety of passenger roll-on roll-off ferries after the capsizing of the Herald of Free Enterprise at Zeebrugge last year are expected to be watered down when Britain tries to get them accepted into international law next week.

Britain will seek changes to the Safety of Life at Sea Convention at a London meeting of the Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organization. The amendments were largely derived from the recommendations of Mr Justice Sheen who carried out the Herald inquiry.

Some of the British proposals, tabled last spring, were adopted subject to some amendments on British ferries and foreign vessels using British ports. They were the fitting

of indicator lights and television monitoring to show that all watertight doors were closed and locked before sailing, continuous patrolling or television monitoring of vehicle decks during a voyage, and the installation of supplementary emergency lighting.

The other measures would provide the ferry master with more accurate information about his ship's stability. They would include the fitting of an automatic system for measuring the ship's draught, and a computer to measure stability and loading. Some proposals were resisted by a sub-committee of the Maritime Safety Committee.

Many British ferries have implemented the measures and it is thought the Department of Transport will make them mandatory.

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Scottish Nationalists aim for 27 per cent swing from Labour at Glasgow Govan

Poll tax rebellion dominates by-election battle

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The constituency of Govan is an amorphous tract of working-class west Glasgow, dissected by the M8 and bordered to the north by semi-dreelict Clydeside docklands.

Old heavy metal-bashing industry has made way for new small service industries. Unemployment is about 20 per cent. Nearly 60 per cent of housing is council-owned.

Its most prominent features are Ibrox Park, home of Glasgow Rangers, and the reclaimed site of the summer's successful Garden Festival.

Glasgow, Govan has one great claim to political fame, however. It was here 15 years ago next month that Mrs Margo MacDonald snatched a by-election victory for the Scottish National Party with a 27 per cent swing from Labour.

On November 10 it could just conceivably have another. It is now, with redrawn boundaries, the scene of another by-election caused by the appointment of Mr Bruce Millan, the sitting Labour MP, to be a European Commissioner in Brussels.

Mr Jim Sillars, Mrs MacDonald's husband, needs an identical 27 per cent swing to secure another sensational SNP victory, one that would have significant political repercussions.

With Labour defending a formidable 19,500 majority, the chances of such a victory are slight indeed, but no one is yet prepared to write off Mr Sillars.

Labour's decision to move the writ for a snap three-week by-election campaign last Wednesday, two months before Mr Millan starts his new job, was widely seen as a sign of its nervousness.

The SNP made significant inroads in Govan at last May's local elections. Mr Sillars is a dynamic, demagogic personality, and he is standing on a simple potent platform: You beat Mrs Margaret Thatcher by resisting her, not by surrendering as he claims Labour's "Feeble Fifty" MPs have repeatedly done at Westminster.

He has the perfect vehicle for his message. It is the deeply resented community charge, or poll tax, being introduced in Scotland next April, a year ahead of England.

A split Labour Party has opted for resistance within the law. The SNP is trying to organize a campaign of civil disobedience with 100,000 people pledged to non-payment.

"No other political party is prepared to stand up for Scotland and her people", one SNP leaflet circulating in Govan says.

What Mr Sillars will also ruthlessly exploit is the position of Mr Bob Gillespie, Labour's candidate, on the poll tax issue.

Mr Gillespie originally favoured mass non-payment but now says he accepts the democratic decision of the Scottish Labour Party to resist within the law.



Campaign contrasts: Mr Gillespie (left) for Labour at an indoor shop stewards' meeting and Mr Sillars (SNP) out and about (Photographs: Tom Kidd).

However, he intends to take advantage of that policy's conscience clause and not pay himself. "It is ridiculous to say I personally will not pay. What good will that do?", Mr Sillars asks.

But the by-election will be about personalities, not just policies, and has the potential to be pretty nasty.

Mr Sillars, aged 51, is an ebullient and well-known Scottish figure. As a Labour MP from 1970 to 1975 he was known as "the Hammer of the Nats" and was tipped as a future Secretary of State for Scotland.

Claiming Labour had failed to honour its Scottish home

rule commitments, he left to set up the short-lived independent Scottish Labour Party and in 1980 joined the SNP, of which he is a vice-president.

He promises a high-profile campaign with street meetings, and claims his decision to stand has inspired party workers with the all-important belief that this time they can win.

Mr Gillespie, also aged 51, is a full-time official of the print union Sogat, who was raised in Govan but now lives near Southend, Essex.

Some opponents claim, on scant evidence, that Mr Gillespie is hard left and even had

militant support to secure the nomination.

He says he voted for Mr Kinnock in Labour's recent leadership election, would join no political grouping at Westminster, and describes himself as "a traditional Clydeside socialist".

With rather more justification Mr Gillespie's opponents also claim that Labour's managers are seeking to shield their "lightweight" candidate from tough questioning.

Certainly the personable Mr Gillespie is better suited to pumping flesh than coping with aggressive journalists.

Labour is cutting the traditional daily by-election

press conferences down to two or three a week, with the press being invited to join Mr Gillespie on visits to hospitals and dockyards on the other days.

Mr Sillars is scathing about his Labour opponent. "I do not rate him as far as his basic political ability goes. He represents the nostrums of the past... He goes on about the class war and things like that... The big difference between me and Bob is that I have updated my socialism and made it relevant to the 1990s."

Mr Gillespie appears to acknowledge that Mr Sillars is a clever public performer, but



Miss Janet Girsman, political correspondent of the tabloid newspaper, Sunday Sport. She has been replaced by Mr Graeme Hamilton, aged 25, a housing development officer, who refuses to accept that the by-election is a two-horse race.

Mr Hamilton, a cub scout leader, believes that the community charge is sellable and that Govan is beginning to reap the benefits of Conservative policies. He claims to be the only non-socialist candidate and the only one not in favour of breaking up the United Kingdom.

The Democrats' candidate is Mr Bernard Ponsonby, also 25, the party's Scottish press officer.

Also standing is Mr Douglas Chalmers, for the Communists, and Mr George Campbell, of the Green Party. Sinn Féin may also put up a candidate to exploit a loophole in the Government's media ban. Dr David Owen's SDP decided it was not worth the effort or resources to put up a candidate.

Mr Sillars claims SNP workers will "flood" the streets of Govan over the next three weeks.

"It would be a tremendous shock to Labour's system. They would be faced with a major challenge both externally from us and internally from activists who are pig-sick at the lack of leadership", he says.

General election: June 1987: 18 Scottish seats. SNP 10, Labour 8, Conservative 5, Liberal 2, Scottish Labour 3, Scottish Conservative 2, Scottish Liberal 1, Scottish Unionist 1.

Judge emphasizes right to silence

By Howard Foster

Three people accused of plotting to murder Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, still have an inalienable right to silence, Winchester Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mr Justice Swinton Thomas warned the jury on the tenth day of the trial of John McCann, aged 24, Martina Shanahan, aged 22, and Finbar Cullen, aged 27, all from the Irish Republic, that it must disregard anything it has seen on television or read in newspapers about government proposals to abolish the right to silence.

The opening of yesterday's hearing was delayed as the judge heard legal arguments from both defence and prosecution counsel.

After recalling the jurors, Mr Swinton Thomas told them: "Some of you may have seen on the television last evening or in the newspapers today there's a government proposal to abolish what is known as the right to silence."

"I shall remind you when I come to sum up the case the accused have sought so far not to give evidence. This is an inalienable right. No person is obliged to answer any questions put to him or to give evidence in the case." The

judge allowed Mr Geoffrey Robertson, QC, for Miss Shanahan's defence, to address the jury.

Mr Robertson told the nine men and three women that on Tuesday the police had said there was no evidence of IRA membership of the three defendants. The next day the three decided not to go into the witness box.

"On Thursday, Thomas King, the alleged victim, announced the abolition of that right", he said.

Mr Robertson said that as the political debate grew, the jury might hear backbench MPs alleging that anyone refusing to go into the witness box must be guilty.

"Do not allow yourselves to be intimidated by politicians who may have no understanding or concern for the liberty of the subject", Mr Robertson said, warning the jury not to be swayed by newspapers.

He said: "There will be many people, particularly in Northern Ireland, who will say 'how can these people possibly get a fair trial after they have exercised their fundamental right to silence'. It is up to you to prove these doubters wrong."

The trial continues on Monday.

Little response to car-phone scheme

By Ruth Gledhill

Only one company has joined a government-backed scheme to stamp out "cowboy" retailers and installers of car and portable cellular telephones.

Mr John Butler, then an Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Trade and Industry, launched the quality assurance scheme at the Confederation of British Industry headquarters in London last July.

The industry has been plagued with complaints by many of Britain's 400,000 mobile telephone users who are fed up with poor reception and failed calls.

The Automobile Association blamed "cowboy" car telephone fitters for at least half of the problems.

The quality assurance scheme, to be piloted by the British Standards Institution, was launched to provide an internationally recognized standard of technical service for users, covering fitting and repair.

Only Astec, the equipment company, based in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, has

joined the scheme so far. Another 50 are believed to be making plans to join. It is a fraction of the several thousand companies, many of them one-man operations, involved nationwide.

Among the problems discovered by the AA in car installations were a mobile telephone connected to the mains supply with the aid of two matchsticks, a telephone transceiver unit mounted on the heater matrix and a lead extended with television aerial flex. In one, a handset had not been mounted at all; that installation had cost £350, against a normal price of about £100.

Vodafone and Cellnet, the two licensed British cellular mobile telephone companies, may have to produce regular quality of service reviews.

That is one option being considered by Professor Bryan Carsberg, director of the Office of Telecommunications, which last month launched an investigation into customer complaints, to be completed by the end of the year.

Baby lobsters freed in bay

Scientists released 3,000 tiny lobsters into Cardigan Bay yesterday, the last stage of a restocking experiment to rescue the fishing industry which has declined through over-fishing. Over the past four years, 19,000 lobsters, each fitted with a monitoring tag, have been placed on areas of seabed off Aberystwyth. First results show enough are surviving to make the project worthwhile. The long-term aim is to develop a self-financing hatchery and aquarium.

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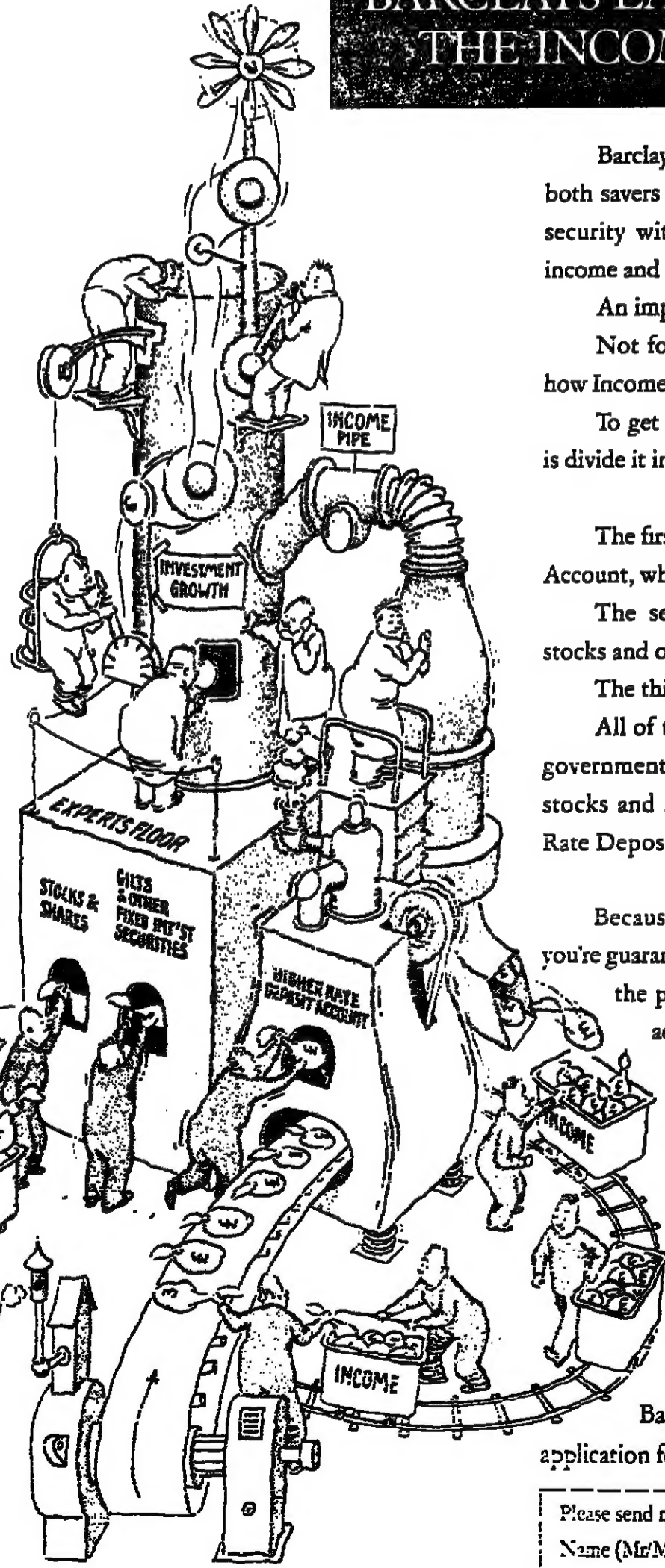
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Britain and Italy seek way to aid Gorbachov reforms

From Roger Boyes, Palianza, northern Italy

British and Italian leaders yesterday tried to work out a common European approach to the reform policies of President Gorbachov, the Soviet leader.

Should Moscow be treated to new credit packages? Should there be a new Marshall Aid programme for the Soviet bloc? Should the West let the East get on with it? Should we say it with flowers?

There is no finer setting for an Anglo-Italian summit than the Villa Taranto, with its 300 different types of dahlias in gardens designed 50 years ago by Neil McCacham, a Scotsman, to honour an ancestor who fought for Napoleon — a celebration of mixed loyalties.

Signor Ciriaco De Mita, the Italian Prime Minister, has just returned from Moscow and is a new enthusiast for Ostpolitik. He has been in contact with Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany, who travels to Moscow on Monday, and they both seem to support economic assistance for the Soviet Union.

Mrs Thatcher, although she has expressed some admiration for Mr Gorbachov, is

more cautious.

The Italian view, as outlined yesterday by Signor De Mita, is that a Marshall-style programme of assistance to selected Soviet industries — such as the consumer goods sector — would help to anchor Mr Gorbachov's reforms.

Soviet citizens frustrated by the slow progress of perestroika, could be appeased by full shops, the value of money could be restored, and President Gorbachov's opponents killed.

The package would have to go hand-in-hand with political détente and conventional disarmament, as well as with liberalization in Soviet society. Italian diplomats see this as a unique chance for Europe to influence the formation of Khrushchev policy.

Signor De Mita already had raised the idea during a visit to Washington earlier this year, but found a distinct lack of enthusiasm in the Reagan Administration. Mr John Whitehead, Washington's senior East Europe specialist at the State Department, has publicly dismissed the idea.

Signor Bettino Craxi, the leader of the Socialist Party

and Signor De Mita's chief coalition partner, scored a few points this week by stating firmly on a visit to Washington: "Credit, yes, gifts, no." He said that, if there was to be an aid package, it should be directed to northern Africa, where "we have the duty to help development and to consolidate peace".

Marshall Plan Mark II is thus at best a distant dream. As one sceptical official remarked: "There are dreams that are truly visions, and there are dreams that occur 30 seconds before waking up. This may be one of the latter."

The original Marshall Plan, which helped Western Europe after the Second World War, was about rebuilding. The West Europeans had the facilities, motivation and institutions to exploit the American aid. But the Soviet bloc in many areas is now in need of development rather than reconstruction — management techniques have to be taught, the sense of profit inculcated.

So, instead of an organized European initiative, there is a hectic European competition to lend money to the Soviet Union. Even this is unsettling

Washington, but there is little that can be done about it.

Italy, at a huge export fair in Moscow this month, announced the first government-to-government credit line — of more than \$750 million (\$426 million) — since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. The money will be devoted mainly to modernizing Soviet light industry.

A West German banking consortium has come up with a DM3 billion (£937 million) credit line, and a French consortium is putting together a spectacular \$2 billion credit package. How much of this credit is taken up remains to be seen.

Industrial projects under discussion with Italy, West Germany and France are, so far, not much different from those of the détente era of the 1970s, before Mr Gorbachov came to power.

US critics in Congress say that this gives the lie to the idea that European trade with Moscow is serving as an incentive for reform. It is simply business, and business moreover that will in part increase West European dependence on Soviet trade.

Ugly rumours blight white-tie banter



Cardinal John O'Connor welcoming a light-hearted Mr Bush and Mr Dukakis to the 43rd Al Smith dinner in New York.

Aide sacked as Bush gets apology

From Charles Bremner, New York

An embarrassed Governor Michael Dukakis yesterday denied that his staff was orchestrating rumours about the marital fidelity of Mr George Bush, an issue that became public when a Dukakis official called on the Vice-President to confess.

"I regret it very much. These statements in no way reflect my campaign," said Mr Dukakis in interviews on all three main television networks. The question became news on Wednesday after Miss Donna Brazile, his deputy national field manager, told reporters: "I think George Bush owes it to the American people to tell us. The American people have every right to know if Barbara Bush will share that bed with him in the White House."

The governor said he had apologized immediately to Mr Bush at the Al Smith dinner, a traditional New York campaign event where both men engaged in good-humoured but scripted banter.

Miss Brazile, a former official with the Rev Jesse Jackson's campaign who has a reputation for raw talk, was sacked minutes after her "off the record" remarks were reported. She said she deeply regretted her words.

But Bush campaign officials were telling reporters her comments confirmed their suspicions that the Democrats were behind a flurry of unsubstantiated recent rumours that Mr Bush had a history of affairs with other women, and one British-born former secretary in particular.

When the stories first circulated last year, at the time of Mr Gary Hart's withdrawal from the campaign, several

pundits suggested they had been spread by the Bush campaign itself as a cunning means of allaying the "wimp" image. Mr Bush dismissed them then and his spokesmen have ridiculed them this week as garbage.

Any hint of substance to the Bush rumours would spell severe trouble for the Republicans because of their base among the most conservative and religious sector of society.

The fall-out from Miss Brazile's remarks for the struggling Dukakis campaign was extensive. It threw him on the defensive just as he was launching an intense campaign of television appearances. The Democratic candidate has been denouncing Mr Bush for slandering his record, and just before Miss Brazile's remarks were reported the governor proclaimed that Mr

Bush had made truth the first casualty in 1988.

For the governor, the flurry of the fun at the Al Smith dinner, an important campaign occasion where he was to match himself, albeit in jocular mode, against Mr Bush. Wearing white tie and tails, the two men dropped their usual demeanour and delivered some uncharacteristically funny lines.

"You've said many times in this campaign that you want to give America back to the little guy," said the 5ft 6in governor to the 6ft 2in Mr Bush. "Well, Mr Vice-President, I am that man."

The gloves came off again yesterday as the two men went their ways. Mr Dukakis to Texas, a state that most experts say he has already lost, and Mr Bush to Ohio.

The Duke's lifetime, page 10

Brussels assault on Thatcher views

From Richard Owen, Brussels

The simmering dispute between London and Brussels over the future of a united Europe broke into open warfare yesterday when Mr Jacques Delors, the president of the European Commission, and his deputy, Mr Frans Andriessen, of The Netherlands, launched strong attacks on Mrs Thatcher for her "profound misunderstanding" of the EEC integration process and 1992.

The move comes at the end of a week in which five European Christian Democrat leaders, including Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany, joined in Brussels to proclaim that economic integration must be accompanied by political union.

Herr Kohl also said that 1992 must include "social measures" involving trade unions, despite Mrs Thatcher's objections, and accused

unnamed "pragmatists" of losing sight of the objective of European union. He called for a European army and a European police force.

Mrs Thatcher, in her speech on Europe at Bruges last month, said that frontiers must be retained to control drugs, crime and terrorism, and she attacked "bureaucratic" control from Brussels.

EEC officials reply that Britain agreed to the abolition of frontiers and the goal of union in the Single European Act which the Prime Minister signed in December, 1985. The issue will come to a head on Monday in Luxembourg, when EEC foreign ministers meet, and at the European Parliament in Strasbourg on Wednesday, when Euro-MPs debate her Bruges speech.

Yesterday Mr Andriessen, Commissioner for Agriculture and the Commission's vice-

president, departed from prepared remarks in Dublin on farm reform to say that the EEC's improved rural policies were not "more bureaucratic and more centralized".

Mrs Thatcher had lost no opportunity to affirm that she had not rolled back the frontiers of the state in Britain only to see them "reimposed" at a European level through a European super-state exercising dominance from Brussels. But such statements were based on a "profound misunderstanding", Mr Andriessen said.

The aims of the Commission were to enhance competition, encourage enterprise, limit central regulation "to the minimum level required for coherence", and to give deprived regions a greater say.

In an article in today's Times, Mr Peter Sutherland of Ireland, the Commissioner for

Competition Policy, also argues that Mrs Thatcher's interpretation of the sovereignty issue is misconceived and that 1992 is not a left-right ideological question.

Mr Delors, in an interview yesterday in the Paris daily *Le Figaro*, focused on the need for "full economic and monetary union", noting that "the British Prime Minister is the only leader who cannot and will not accept it".

PARIS: M. Michel Rocard, the French Prime Minister, and M. Delors have clashed in the French Senate over their profoundly opposed views on harmonizing VAT rates throughout the EEC (Philip Jacobson writes). Mr Rocard has regularly gone out of his way to emphasize that France is flatly opposed to any significant reduction of its own VAT structure.

Unity without tears, page 10

Row over constitutional changes as Serb protests widen

Belgrade (Reuters) — Thousands of Serbian nationalists demonstrated yesterday in their leader's home town and elsewhere in the country as Parliament debated the amending of the state Constitution to end Yugoslavia's worst political turmoil since 1945.

Witnesses said that about 10,000 protesters gathered in the eastern Yugoslav town of Pozarevac, the birthplace of Mr Slobodan Milosevic, who heads the campaign for more Serbian political control of the Albanian-dominated autonomous province of Kosovo.

The demonstrators held aloft portraits of their leader, chanted his name, and denounced a vote of "no confidence" which the Yugoslav

Central Committee passed on Wednesday against a Serbian member of the ruling Politburo.

The vote against Mr Dusan Kerebic, a prominent figure in the pro-Serbian campaign, reflected the concern of non-Serbian leaders that militant Serbs may exploit the Kosovo problem to establish their dominance over the whole country.

Meanwhile, a delegation of Kosovo Serbs arrived in Belgrade yesterday and thousands of others demonstrated in Kosovo itself in protest at the political stalemate.

The Serbian protesters are also voicing popular discontent at falling living standards. "The working class expects improvements in its material situation," the mayor of

Pozarevac, Mr Kucman Jeremic, told the rally there, which Mr Milosevic did not attend.

The most sensitive constitutional proposal under discussion in Parliament was an amendment which would strengthen the ability of the federal authorities to make Yugoslavia's six republics and two autonomous provinces fund the armed forces.

Slovenia, the most politically liberal and economically advanced republic, opposes the change. Slovene politicians want to limit federal powers in their republic, and the Slovene press has questioned the military's role in Yugoslav life. Slovene representatives angered the armed forces on Wednesday by

criticizing the amendment at a meeting of the Central Committee.

"The blocking of the amendment means, in essence, the breakdown of the system of providing for the Army," the Deputy Defence Minister, Mr Stane Brovet, said.

"Who can take responsibility before the Yugoslav people for the possible consequences?" he asked.

The federal authorities want Parliament to endorse the constitutional proposals so that they can be sent to the six republics and two provinces for approval before finally coming into force on November 29.

But the Central Committee failed this week to agree on other proposed changes, such as extending the authority of federal laws over repub-

lican ones, creating a unified tax system, and altering the method of electing the collective state presidency.

Yugoslavia's crisis has been compounded by economic disarray — 217 per cent inflation, 15 per cent unemployment and the lowest living standards for 20 years.

In an angry and sustained reaction, workers have staged about 800 strikes this year, in almost every sector. In response to the labour unrest, Parliament on Thursday eased wage controls that were imposed last May. It raised the ceiling on wage increases in the last quarter of 1988 to 140 per cent from 119 per cent as compared with the same period last year.

Explosive protest ignored by Queen

Barcelona — The Queen remained unperturbed yesterday when Catalan demonstrators supporting the IRA fired off six loud rockets from the roof of a nearby building as she arrived in Barcelona on the last day of her state visit to Spain (Alan Hamilton writes). A Buckingham Palace spokesman said: "The only thing that moved were the pigeons."

Such minor diversions apart, the state visit is being seen by both British and Spanish commentators as an unqualified success which has improved the overall climate for an eventual solution to the Gibraltar issue, thanks to the obviously close and warm relationship between the Queen and King Juan Carlos, her Spanish first cousin.

Minister under fire

Tokyo — Japan's Finance Minister, Mr Kiichi Miyazawa, yesterday again refused to resign over his involvement in a big Japanese share-trading scandal now being investigated by the Tokyo district Public Prosecutor's Office (Joe Joseph writes). Mr Miyazawa denies any wrongdoing.

The office has arrested Mr Hiroshi Matsushima, a former top executive of Recruit Cosmos, a property company, on charges of offering a £23,000 bribe to an opposition politician to play down the scandal in Parliament. It also raided the firm's offices. About 140 people are believed to have made large profits from buying Recruit Cosmos shares at bargain prices before the company was listed on the stock exchange and the prices rose sharply.

Sakharov honoured

Moscow (Reuters/AP) — Dr Andrei Sakharov, the human rights campaigner and physicist, has been elected to the Præsidium of the Soviet Academy of Sciences in final official recognition of his stature as one of the country's most eminent scientists.

The vote late on Thursday was part of a big shake-up of the academy's ruling body, in which several aging officials were replaced by younger men. "From one point of view, it is a great honour, but at the same time it is a great responsibility," a clearly delighted Dr Sakharov said yesterday. He also said that he wanted to leave the Soviet Union for the first time to attend a conference in the United States, and that the Kremlin might give him a visa.

Botha warns press

Johannesburg — President Botha of South Africa has warned the country's beleaguered press, already shackled by emergency regulations and other laws, that the Government will not hesitate to muzzle it even further by emulating the example set by the British Government in denying television coverage to the IRA (Ray Kennedy writes).

Mr Botha's warning, at Benoni, near here, on Thursday night, made it clear that the Government remains determined to enact Bills providing for stricter enforcement of the racial segregation of residential areas.

Crash victims named

Rome — Four British subjects who died when a Ugandan Boeing crashed here on Monday have been identified (Paul Bompard writes). They are Mr Manjit Singh Dillon, Mrs Krishna Watts, Mr Kara Ibrahim Noor Mohamed and Mr Stanley John Adlam. Another passenger, thought to be British, is still in a coma and has not yet been identified. The Ugandan 707 crashed, killing 32 people and injuring 20, on its third attempt to land at Rome's Fiumicino Airport shortly after midnight.

UN funds bolstered

New York (Reuters) — The United States has delivered a \$28.3 million (£16.9 million) cheque for arrears to the United Nations but still owes \$337.5 million and remains the world body's largest debtor. Congress had withheld funds until the UN made administrative reforms.

The US payment covers what the United Nations spends in two weeks. UN officials said the body faced a financial crisis by the end of the year even if the US paid all its debt.

Jordan backing for Labour in Israel election

Husain ready to negotiate peace process with Peres

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Ten days before the Israeli general election, King Husain of Jordan has given his support to Labour Party ideas for peace negotiations and has said that he is ready to resume representing the Palestinians in them if asked to do so.

The King, who cut all legal and administrative ties with the West Bank at the end of July, seemed to be looking forward, in an interview with ABC television on Thursday evening, to a victory by Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour leader.

Party sources here revealed that Mr Peres's bureau advised ABC to approach the King to give the interview. This indicates that the Jordanian leader had already been involved in helping Labour to draw up the detailed four-year peace programme it means to bring in if it wins the election.

Vital assurances that the King was still prepared to be involved in the peace process seemed to have been given to Mr Peres by Mrs Thatcher during his visit to London last month. Her contacts with the King, to find out the full meaning of his disengagement from the West Bank, appear to have been crucial in helping Mr Peres draw up his plan.

He said last Monday that he would invite Jordan, the Palestinians and the United States to hold an international conference leading to negotiations for a settlement. Mr Peres said on the ABC programme that this would be "the first thing I will do as Prime Minister", if he wins the election on November 1.

Other parts of the plan

include allowing Palestinians to elect their own representatives, provided there was first a six-month period of peace in the territories. These Palestinians could negotiate with Israel provided they were authentic local representatives "regardless of their biographies", which means that they would not be excluded if they were supporters of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

King Husain described this plan in his interview as "interesting". It was, he said, "a step forward, much more clear than any previous position and is thus a sign of development".

The King said he would have high-level talks with the PLO over the next few days on the Labour plan. The PLO, meanwhile, has delayed until after the Israeli and American

totally rejects Labour's ideas, the King said: "I hope the other side will be able to make up its mind soon. This position by Mr Peres is a very encouraging one. I believe it is the only encouraging one, so hopefully it will be in a position, or the Government of Israel will be in a position, to make a constructive contribution."

The King's agreement to appear on television with Mr Peres, the first time he has allowed this with an Israeli political leader, is further evidence that he wants the Labour Party to win.

He underlined his support when asked what would happen if Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud leader, were to win. "I can't tell what his policies would be, but if they are what he has consistently suggested they would be, then absolute disaster. The whole area is threatened, and I cannot begin to imagine what the end results will be."

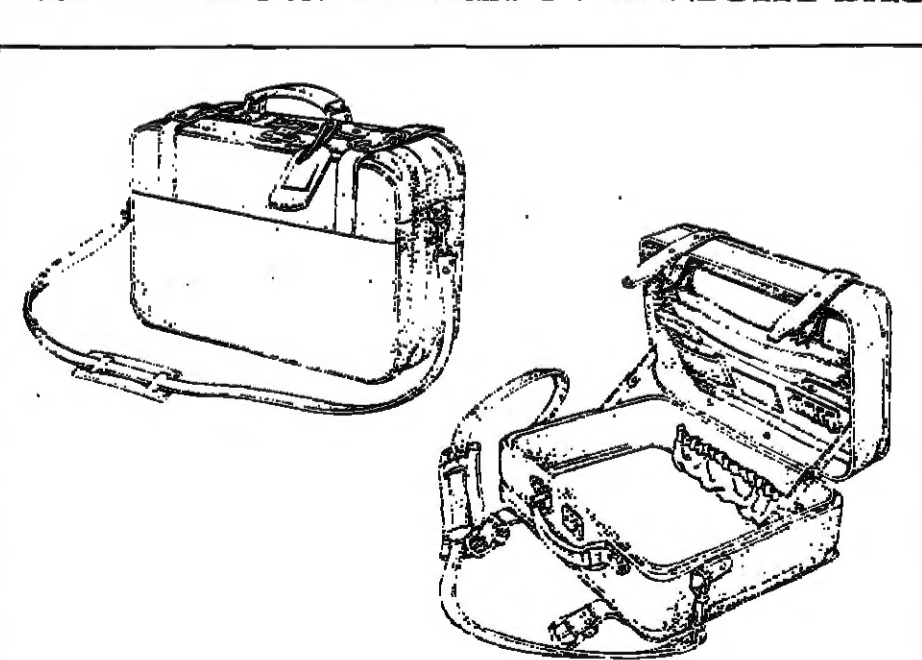
Mr Shamir responded angrily to the King's remarks. He said he regretted the attempt to bring foreign intervention into the election campaign. The King would be a negotiation partner for peace, he said, and allowing himself to be pulled into the Israeli elections was damaging and harmful.

But in welcoming the Labour initiative, and making it plain he is prepared to represent the Palestinians, the King is not contradicting his move to disengage from the West Bank. He said that he is still prepared to work for peace within an international conference and that he was ready to help the Palestinians.



King Husain: Still prepared to represent the Palestinians.

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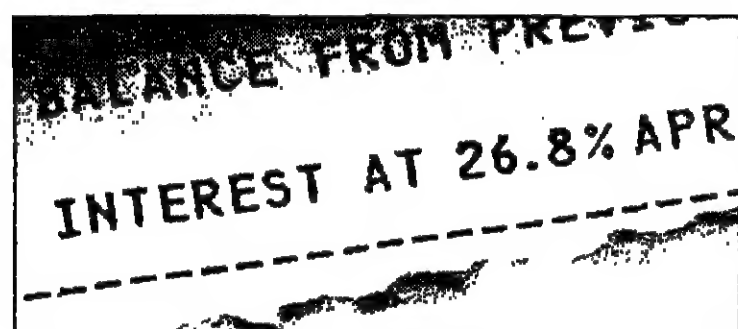
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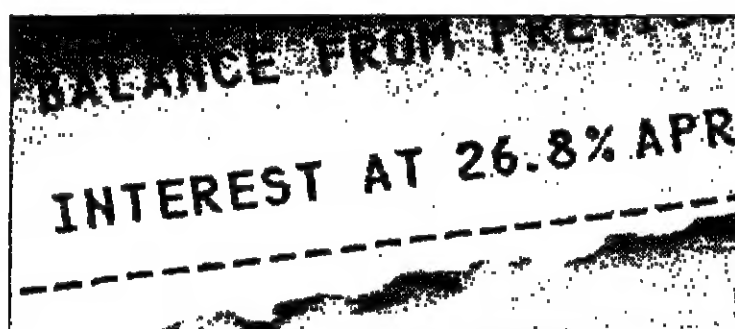
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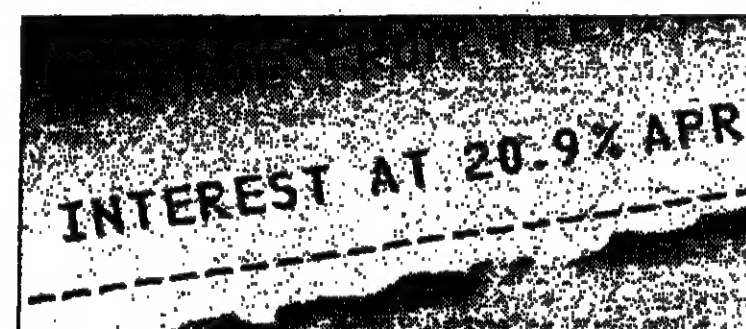
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Murder in Colombo follows truce for Sinhalese Marxists

From Edward Gorman, Colombo

Sinhalese extremists are being blamed by Sri Lankan security forces for murdering Mr Tudor Keerthimanda, a leading lawyer of the ruling United National Party, on his way to work in Colombo early yesterday. A bomb was thrown into his car, leaving his wife critically injured.

Soon after the killing, which came only a day after the Government announced the suspension for a week of counter-subversion activities, the Marxist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, People's Liberation Front) distributed leaflets in the city condemning the presidential elections, less than two months ahead, and calling for a boycott.

As yesterday's attack, the latest of many apparently political murders, testifies, Sri Lanka is teetering on the brink of anarchy.

Earlier in the week, Mr Ranasinghe Premadasa, the Prime Minister and United party candidate, described Sri Lanka as "like a candle burning at both ends".

He declared: "I am going to put out these flames. I do not propose to achieve peace by thuggery or military strength. I will extend good will to win good will."

Many would argue that his metaphor was an understatement, given the extent of the national crisis. In a parliamentary debate on Thursday during which emergency rule, already enforced for 5½ years, was ritually extended for yet another month, the

Government announced that, in the month to October 14, 247 people had been killed.

The official figures — generally seen as on the low side — comprised 75 political killings, 35 civilian deaths, five security personnel and 132 "other murders". The figures do not include Indian soldiers of the so-called "peace-keeping" force fighting Tamil Tiger separatists in the north and east and being killed at a rate of two or three a day. Mr Vincent Perera, the minister moving the emergency motion, gave the verdict that the statistics "clearly indicate that terrorism continues in most parts of the island".

While the Tigers continue to command the attention of the world's press with their periodic massacres of innocent — mostly Sinhalese — civilians, the focus here is increasingly shifting to the Marxist insurgency in the central and southern parts of the country which is challenging the viability of the Government and threatening to turn December's elections into a bloodbath.

The JVP is estimated to have killed more than 600 government supporters, including the chairman, the secretary and a Cabinet minister of the UNP in a campaign of assassinations launched immediately after the signing of the Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord in July last year.

The JVP is committed to the overthrow of what it

regards as an illegitimate Government, the abolition of the presidency, the scrapping of the peace accord — which it sees as an insult to national sovereignty — and the recently formed provincial councils which flowed from it, and the holding of immediate parliamentary elections.

The movement, drawing its support from the poverty-stricken deep south, has demonstrated with alarming frequency its ability to paralyse the country with a series of strikes and a boycott of schools and universities in the past two weeks.

The Government of President Jayewardene responded on Thursday with an unprecedented week-long suspension of army and police activity against the movement in an attempt to encourage it to abandon violence and join in the political mainstream.

Many observers interpreted the move as underlying the extent to which the JVP — led by a fanatical hard core of about 2,000 — has succeeded in being able to dictate terms to an increasingly powerless administration.

There is no doubt that the Government's week-long amnesty is also part of continuing attempts, despite the killings, to encourage the leadership of the JVP to abandon its apparent support for Mrs Sirima Bandaranaike, the opposition presidential candidate, and put its political weight and intimidatory methods behind the Prime Minister.

Managua emergency as hurricane nears

From David Gollob, Managua

The Nicaraguan Government has declared a national state of emergency as Hurricane Joan remains stationary 265 miles east of the coastal city of Bluefields.

Officials predicted that the hurricane would resume its westward course yesterday, striking Nicaragua's Atlantic coast 50 miles south of Bluefields by this morning.

The declaration of an emergency on Thursday seemed to have more to do with muzzling the opposition newspaper *La Prensa* than with hurricane preparations.

La Prensa has been trying to whip up a sense of crisis in this country, said a Sandinista official. "It is taking advantage of the hurricane to achieve this goal."

La Prensa had announced a week ago that a tropical storm was heading for Nicaragua, despite meteorological predictions that the storm was petering out. Events subsequently proved the paper right — the storm was upgraded to hurricane status on Tuesday, after leaving 50 dead in Venezuela and Colombia.

Under the state of emergency, the Government has reserved to itself the right of reporting on the movements of the hurricane. *La Prensa* has denounced this as "absurd and illegal".

A pending natural disaster seems to be the only element missing from a fortress country teetering ever more precariously on the brink of catastrophe.

Despite President Reagan's admission of defeat in his battle to secure military aid for the Contras, the political temperature in the country leapt several degrees as the Sandinista Government challenged the Roman Catholic Church, inflation soared to



A Nicaraguan couple evacuated from the coast by boat handing their baby to a Red Cross man at the river town of Rama.

unprecedented levels, government forces exchanged artillery fire with neighbouring Honduras, and the Contras murdered more Sandinista political activists.

It is common practice among journalists and diplomats here to refer to the March ceasefire agreement as having "held up" beyond its 60-day term. Yet in view of the number of violations, the shake-ups in the Contra movement, and the Mr Reagan's failure to restore military aid, the fall in the war could be explained in different ways.

The bulk of the Contra army retreated to Honduras in May to await a decision in Washington over its future. A mutiny by middle-ranking officers who supported further negotiations with the Sandinistas was repressed, and Contra officials who had sided with that faction were purged.

Since then some Contra fighters have trickled back into the country, joining those who never left.

The classic pattern of clashes in remote jungle regions has given way to selective killings on both sides, to settle scores or secure local control through terror.

The bodies of four people, a regional official, his two sons, and a 19-year-old volunteer rural policeman, were found near a hamlet 90 miles from Managua on Monday.

A spate of similar killings of suspected Contra collaborators by Sandinista forces was denounced recently by the New York-based human rights group, America's Watch.

"This is what we are expecting now," a Sandinista official said. "Ten years of banditry in the countryside. Even without US support a small, heavily armed force can raise hell."

The Sandinistas view the outcome of the US presidential elections with equanimity, the official added. "The Reagan policy is dead — even if Bush wins. With Bush, we expect something more subtle."

Among the "subtle" methods of destabilization the Sandinistas fear is the financing of civilian opposition activity. Part of a \$27 million (\$15.4 million) package of non-military aid for the Contras was earmarked for opposition groups and the Catholic Church. Earlier this month the Sandinistas made it illegal to receive any of these

funds, bringing the Government into renewed conflict with Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo. Before the law was passed, Cardinal Obando had accepted congressional funds in the form of 25 vehicles.

These were ostensibly to be used to help the Church to verify a peace agreement with the Contras. "What peace agreement?" the government-controlled media asked.

Cardinal Obando has retaliated by accusing the Sandinistas of launching a campaign against him to distract attention from the economic crisis. If discontent is as high as some believe it to be, the offensive against the Cardinal could backfire, consolidating his position as a fearless opponent of the beleaguered revolution.

1,500 dead as cyclone sinks 100 vessels

Dhaka — More than 1,500 people, including at least 1,000 fishermen, were feared dead in the tropical cyclone which struck southern Bangladesh on Wednesday, officials said (Ahmed Fazi writes).

The fishermen were on board some 100 boats which have failed to return to ports in and around the coastal town of Cox's Bazar since the cyclone hit the Bay of Bengal. Some 70 bodies have so far been recovered from the sea.

Torrential rains which followed the storm triggered flash floods and mudslides, leaving 20,000 homeless in the coastal districts.

Six released

Mogadishu (Reuters) — Somalia freed two prominent politicians, Ismail Ali Abokor and Omar Arshad Qahbi, sentenced to death for plotting a coup, and released four former ministers detained since 1982.

Court victory

Port Vila, Vanuatu (Reuters) — The South Pacific nation's appeal court ruled that the expulsion from Parliament of a rebel politician, Mr Barak Sope, and four supporters was unconstitutional.

Hindu deaths

Delhi (Reuters) — At least 12 people, nine of them children, were killed and 60 injured in stampedes at a Hindu festival in Jamshedpur in the north Indian state of Bihar.

Rebel raiders

Paramaribo, Surinam (Reuters) — About 50 armed guerrillas attacked a village and a palm oil plantation, looting policemen in a cell and making off with cars and weapons.

Legal cocaine

La Paz (Reuters) — Bolivia, one of the world's largest cocaine producers, says it plans to export the drug legally for medicinal purposes. The Soviet Union has already placed an order for 220lb.

Terror verdict

Brussels (AP) — Six members of an anarchist group were convicted of terrorist bombings that killed two firemen and caused widespread damage in 1984 and 1985.

Panel named

Wellington (AFP) — New Zealand and France named Sir Kenneth Keith and M Jean Bredin as arbitrators on the future of the Rainbow Warrior saboteurs, Alain Mafart and Dominique Prieur.

Mahathir win

Batu Pahat, Malaysia (AFP) — The ruling National Front coalition of Dr Mahathir Mohamad won a by-election, seen as a vote of confidence.

Statue mishap

Dhaka — Five people were crushed to death and three others injured when the statue of a Hindu goddess fell from a lorry during a festival.

French ex-minister on death transport charges

Outcry over new war crime trial

From Philip Jacobson, Bordeaux

The long and disquieting shadow of wartime collaboration with the Nazis has again fallen across France after the indictment of M Maurice Papon for "crimes against humanity".

It is the third time that M Papon, who became a senior government minister after service under the Occupation, has been arraigned on the same charges as Klaus Barbie.

The seven-year delay since the damning allegations against him first surfaced in the French press has been criticized by lawyers acting for survivors among deported Jews and their families.

When news leaked out this week that M Papon, aged 79, had been charged in secrecy three months ago, there were complaints that the authorities were seeking to "bury" this sensitive case.

"Klaus Barbie was indicted in the most public manner in Lyons," observed Maître Gérard Boulanger, a Bordeaux lawyer representing the family who initiated the first legal action. "Why should Maurice Papon be treated any differently?"

The allegations, which M

Papon denies, claim that as a French official working under the Germans he was responsible for the transporting of 1,690 Jews from the Bordeaux region to Nazi camps.

If his trial does take place, the country will be confronted — as it was during the Barbie



M Klausfeld: Joined in call for a new indictment.

hearings — with unpleasant facts about the extent to which Germans relied on French collaborators to do their dirty work.

Over some four years about 75,000 Jews — a quarter of the country's Jewish population — were deported to the camps. Bordeaux was second only to

Paris in the number of those rounded up.

It is not disputed that M Papon was secretary-general of the Gironde prefecture, responsible for the Bordeaux region, from 1942 to 1944 — the period in which all the deportations occurred. Nor is there any doubt that he signed documents linked to the round-up and subsequent "transfer" of Jews.

For his part, M Papon, who went on to serve as police chief of Paris under General de Gaulle and budget minister under President Giscard d'Estaing, has always claimed to have been a resistance "mole".

After *Le Canard Enchaîné* published a detailed dossier on his wartime activities in 1981, M Papon demanded to be heard by a "jury of honour" composed of former resistance leaders.

But the jury's verdict was ambiguous. In his official capacity, M Papon had been associated with "acts that do not conform to our understanding of honourable conduct".

The jury criticized him for not having resigned over the

deportations, but concluded he had given important assistance to the resistance.

Shortly after being indicted for the first time in 1983, M Papon began a legal action against the Jewish plaintiffs in his case, for "impugning his honour". The next year more charges involving crimes against humanity were laid against him by other Jews.

But ever since the Appeal Court nullified the entire proceedings on technical grounds in February, 1987, Maître Boulanger and other lawyers — including the French Nazi-hunter, M Serge Klarsfeld, who fought to bring Barbie to justice — have been pressing for a new indictment.

The decision to charge M Papon in secret last July was never officially communicated to them. For Maître Boulanger it was a calculated "act of defiance" by the legal authorities. For M Klarsfeld, it shows the judiciary "cares more for the tranquillity of the former minister than for the morale of the families involved".

M Papon, living in wealthy retirement, has yet to comment on the latest indictment.

Speed limit chaos on the autostrada

From Paul Bompard, Rome

The struggle to establish speed limits on Italy's motorways has become a grotesque, four-month political farce.

The latest suggestion by a minister is that the speed limit should be 114.8 kilometers per hour (71.75 mph), having worked this out on his pocket calculator as the European average.

With names like Ferrari, Farina and Navolani as part of the national mythology, it is inevitable that the question of speed limits is close to the heart of most Italians.

Unfortunately politicians are no exception, with the result that Italy has had three different sets of speed limits since July, each more complex than the one before, and each

political party has taken a stand.

The star of the show is the Public Works Minister, Signor Enrico Ferri. Before July, Italy had speed limits that varied according to the type of road and the engine size of the car. Anything over 1600 cc, for instance, could travel at 140 kph on the motorways and 110 on normal highways — complicated perhaps, but virtually never enforced by the police.

In July, however, Signor Ferri decreed a controversial limit of 110 kph on motorways and 90 kph elsewhere, as a temporary safety measure during the summer holidays. He also made sure it was enforced.

That limit ran out in

September, and after much haggling and bickering, the Government came up with the most confusing set of speed limits man has ever seen.

On single-lane highways, 90 kph at all times, on dual-carriageway highways, 110 kph during the week, but 90 kph on Saturdays and Sundays, Bank Holidays, Christmas, Easter, July and August, on the motorways, 130 kph, but only 110 on Saturdays, Sundays, Bank Holidays, etc.

These limits are now in force, but the Chamber of Deputies refused to approve this government ruling.

The battle shifted to the Transport Commission, made up of members of the five coalition parties, charged with

devising a system of limits in line with the rest of Europe. France and Austria have a 130 limit, Spain, Sweden and Finland 120, and Britain 112. Germany has no limit at all on its motorways but a suggested speed of 130.

Most of the coalition parties were agreeable to a 130 or even 140 top speed, but on Monday Signor Ferri said 114.8 kph was the average maximum speed in Europe by his calculation, which apparently included Andorra and Greece, where there are no motorways.

Several members angrily withdrew their signatures and Parliament postponed its vote on the Commission's proposals. The battle of the speed limits is back to square one.

Writing on the wall for higher education

By Victor Zorza and Venu Sandal

Two men had been locked for years in argument with the rest of the village, but at last a breakthrough seemed possible. Purchand, the soft-spoken but strong-willed village elder, and his volatile brother Patti Ram, had always contended that the community needed a high school. Other villagers disagreed.

For them the old junior school was more than adequate. Its drop-out rate, they said, was so high that few people reached the top classes. Why have a senior high school, they asked, for which there would be hardly any pupils?

But lately, with more and more children staying on, the two brothers hoped they might perhaps be able to convert the sceptics. "In the past, our sons and daughters went to school for just a few years," they argued, "but times are changing. Our grandchildren will surely go on for higher studies. We must have a high school."

By the time an official visited the village, most of the dissenters had come round. But the government budget, the villagers learned, made no provision for a high school. Purchand and Patti Ram, the village's spokesmen, saw this as a challenge. "The Government may have made no provision," they said, "but we can. If our village gives land on which to build the school, perhaps the officials will find the money."

The two brothers brought up the topic whenever anybody dropped in at their hut. Nain Sing the headman, who didn't need much persuasion, lent them his support. But finding suitable land wasn't easy, and no one was rich enough to contribute much towards buying it. Small amounts, mostly of a few rupees, came in a slow trickle. The whole idea was impractical, some villagers declared.

Even Purchand and Patti Ram despaired. "At this rate, it will take half a century to collect the money, and we'll be dead and gone long before," they reflected gloomily — but were not prepared to give in. The high school would attract children from miles around and, they reasoned, the three neighbouring villages also stood to gain from it. The brothers decided to make use of this. Without help from the other villages, they announced, there would be no high school.

Everybody in the village chuckled as they cottoned on to Purchand's and Patti Ram's strategy. The three villages were in a dilemma. If they refused to co-operate, they would be condemned for not supporting a worthy cause. But if they did contribute, what guarantee did they have that the money would not be misused?

What if some villager, sent to town on school business, used for his own benefit the money he was given for expenses?

To allay such fears, Purchand offered to stand as a guarantor for the fund, even though fully aware of the risk. The three villages were reassured, and the collection slowly rose to 200 rupees, then to 300 (£12) and there it remained for months.

Many villagers said they had given all they could afford and, their doubts rekindled, again predicted failure. It was obviously beyond their capacity, they said, to raise anything like the 10,000 or so rupees needed for the land; Purchand and Patti Ram had always been dreamers, and had allowed themselves to be carried away by their vision. Stung by the criticism, distressed that the collection had come to a halt, Purchand and Patti Ram berated the villagers for their lack of faith and threw down a challenge. Together, the brothers donated one of their



most fertile fields for the school and asked others to follow. The villagers gasped at their foolhardiness. "It's madness," they said, "to give away land which yields sacks of grain."

But Purchand and Patti Ram had not gambled in vain. In the weeks that followed, some villagers with land near Purchand's also acted like "madmen": first one, then two, then later another four, announced that they would give up one field each. The total area would be large enough, everyone agreed, for a four-room school building.

Two village representatives, armed with the 300 rupees collected so far, were sent to town to register the gift of land. But, unfamiliar with the legal complexities of such an unusual transaction, they returned to the village without accomplishing anything — and without the money. It had gone, they said, "on expenses".

The villagers were outraged. "You've eaten it up," they accused the two, who hotly protested their innocence. Purchand the guarantor summoned the suspects to his hut. While he talked to them, people gathered outside and loudly voiced their misgivings: Purchand's honesty had never been in question, but their fears, it seemed, had been borne out. If the two men, some said, had indeed spent the money on their own business, Purchand would have to bear the loss and refund the cash, but the village might have to give up the idea of the school.

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The Village Voice column will return after a break.

Skilful Tunisia ruler steers clear of riot-hit Algeria's pitfalls

From Christopher Walker, Tunis

At one end of the bustling, tree-lined avenue which dominates the centre of Tunis is a kiosk selling Arabic wall posters of Samantha Fox, while at the other, builders are struggling to replace a giant effigy of former President Bourguiba in time for the first anniversary of his overthrow on November 7.

The former page three girl and replacement of the statue symbolize why the smallest North African nation was able to weather the popular uprising which nearly toppled the Government of neighbouring Algeria.

Tunisia, like Algeria a former French colony, has been hit by a similarly explosive mix of slump, oil prices, drought, locusts, inflation and Islamic revivalism. But its newly installed Government (including the first Minister

from outside the ruling Democratic Constitutional Rally party) has displayed a flexibility which the ageing socialist leadership of Algeria could not.

Only hours before rioting broke out in Algiers on October 4, President Ben Ali of Tunisia paid a surprise call on the wholesale market here to discuss ways of restraining spiralling food prices. He then called a Cabinet meeting and introduced a number of emergency measures, including an across-the-board 15 dinar (€22) increase in monthly government salaries.

The gesture was typical of the dynamism the plain-talking general has displayed since taking over from the senile President Bourguiba, aged 88. Over the past 11 months, he has revamped Tunisia's economic, political and constitutional structure.

"What is important is that this

President is prepared to listen and to act. He also seems genuinely to dislike the grotesque personality cult which surrounded his predecessor," explained a senior Western envoy. "Far from being socialist, his policies of privatizing the economy look more like an Arab version of Thatcherism."

"De-Bourguibization," the policy launched by General Ben Ali as soon as he moved up from Prime Minister to President, has already eliminated many of the worst examples of corruption. These thrived under the one-party dictatorship of President Bourguiba, who ruled for 31 years.

Last week's sudden disappearance of the equestrian statue of President Bourguiba, which had dominated the centre of Tunis for years, followed the removal of similar overblown effigies from provincial towns and the renaming of many streets called after the

former leader. The ex-President's likeness was also replaced in August on the back of newly minted one-dinar and half-dinar coins by a map of Tunisia.

Meanwhile the move towards returning the country to the Islamic routes so neglected by the Western-oriented President Bourguiba has left it the most open and liberal of all Western papers (ranging from *The Sun* to *Le Monde*) so strictly prohibited in Algeria, are on sale, and the bulk of the population receives its news from Italian television's first channel.

The immediate cause of the bloodless coup last November was President Bourguiba's decision to order a retrial of Islamic militants, many of whom had been tried on various charges and sentenced only two months previously. Subsequently, the new Prime Minister, Mr Hedi Baccouche, announced

that the new Government would "confer on the Islamic religion the place that it should have in Tunisian society, but this would be clearly distinguished from any form of fanaticism".

Among moves taken by President Ben Ali was a revival of the Committee of Reflection of Religious Affairs, a reinstatement of the Hejira calendar in all official documents, and the introduction of the Islamic call to prayer into television and radio programmes.

"Had the Algerian *Intifada* (Uprising) occurred exactly a year ago, just before Ben Ali took control, there is no doubt there would have been a similar bloodbath here. At that time the young people were very disillusioned and Bourguiba was fighting it out hammer and tongs with the fundamentalists," explained one Western resident. Stressing that President Ben Ali still maintained

a firm personal grip on power despite gradual moves to pluralism, he added: "He has so far avoided a single *faux pas*. He has politicized discontent, rather than allowing it to spill over on to the streets. That is a lesson the Algerian regime must learn if it is to survive."

A product of elitist French and US military training colleges, President Ben Ali, aged 52, has not yet fully defused the threat from the Muslim extremists, 183 of whom still face terrorist charges. Islamic militants are looking to the anniversary celebrations for a further gesture of reconciliation and a role in the pluralistic society the President wants.

Should he continue to maintain stability, optimists believe that Tunisia, a junction between East and West, could take up the role once occupied by Lebanon as a business and tourist centre.

TIMES DIARY

SIMON BARNES

Where are the Eddie Edwardses of tomorrow? Is Eddie the last as well as the first of his kind? The British Ski Federation ran a ski-jumping course recently at Kandersteg in Switzerland and was besieged by people anxious to take part, all undaunted by the cost, ready to travel to the ends of the earth in pursuit of the dream of Eddie.

But when it came to the put-to, only one man went: stand up for SAC Lea Dunning, of RAF Portsmouth in Cornwall, Tim Ashburner, the federation's jumping director, also has high hopes of Simon Mitchell, a former British junior decathlon champion. But Mitchell is short of cash for training jaunts. "I can only assume it is the high cost of jumping boots and insurance which is putting people off," Ashburner said.

Meanwhile the hunt continues for a site for the first permanent British ski-jumping hill. Ashburner says bluntly that "Ski jumps are like women — they have to have curves in all the right places; and these curves should be neither too flat nor over-inflated." Fair enough, but where are the men to tackle such curves? Perhaps this is the moment for female Eagles to step forward.

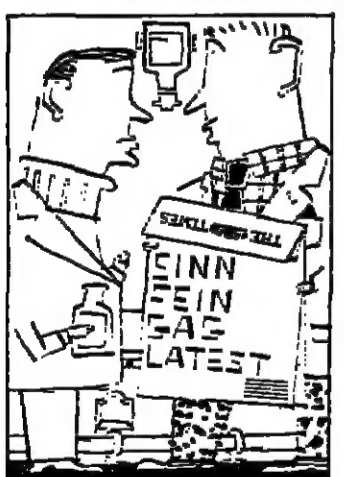
Faithful readers will recall my mention last week of Bob Willis's ball, the one with which he took 8-43 in That Test against Australia, and which was coming up for auction. It was in a lot with a few medals, and was valued at around £120. It raised £1,550. The total raised for all the Willis lots was £4,410.

Basketball teams need flashy names — like Manchester Eagles, for example. But another Manchester club have outdone their rivals by calling themselves Olympic City Giants. They were not silly enough to ask permission of the committee organizing the Manchester bid for the Olympic Games, wisely guessing that they would only get a refusal. They did it unilaterally. "And they even had the gall to ask if we would like to advertise in their programme," said the club's organizing committee director, Richard Parry. He added: "We are not an Olympic City. We are an Olympic bidding city." But Olympic Bidding City Giants doesn't have the same ring, does it?

Useless sporting awards: North Korea has honoured 173 Cuban athletes for their feat in not taking part in the Olympic Games. Fidel Castro had already similarly honoured North Korean athletes. "We are proud to have such brothers who remain faithful to the principles of the revolution," Pyongyang announced.

How pleasant to know that people don't change. With security tight as a drum at the Conservative party conference, and even the silver foil in chockie boxes setting off the alarms, Phil Edmonds, the former England bowler, remains as full of misplaced self-confidence as ever. He blithely walked straight through the entire security cordon with his customary air of insuperable and insufferable rightness. No, he is not going into politics, you will be glad to hear. His wife, Frances, of Test expose fame, is researching a book on politics to be called *Members Only*.

BARRY FANTONI



When the clocks go back despair grips my heart and I start to revive my interest in association football. But sport is currently coming to terms with the implications of the possible change in British time — an advance of one hour from September to March, and an advance of two hours (instead of the usual one) for the summer. For a start, club cricket matches could go on until 8.30 at night (which would be fine if the pubs stayed open until midnight — by which time darkness would just be falling). Longer winter afternoons would have far more outdoor sporting opportunities to make up for murky mornings. The Sports Council and the governing bodies of most outdoor sports like the idea. And so, to reduce mayhem on the roads, does the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. The date for the putative change would be 1990. Cricket under the midnight sun at Tewin — who could resist such a prospect?

By the time you read this, they will be long gone. These people, who come from Gloucestershire, Devon, and even Milton Keynes, assembled at Cannock in Staffordshire at 5.30am to travel by minibus to watch Stearns v Brechin City in the Scottish second division. These are members of the newly formed ground-hopping nuptial organization, the Hopper Round Britain Club. This is their third visit to Scotland this year; they were over-subscribed for the trip, and are thinking about expansion.

The organizer is the tireless Steve Pettit, programme editor for Hedgesford Town of the Beazer Homes League and one of football's super-heroes. He has been to 46 matches so far this season, and said: "The chap who will do our driving on Saturday has already been to 65 or 70, and will reckon on doing 300 by the end of the season. I admit that's going a bit far, because he goes to a game almost every day of the week. When, like me, you've got a wife and a job and don't want to lose either, you've got to be a bit realistic."

The dust has settled after Mrs Thatcher's Bruges and Brighton speeches, and EEC leaders are looking forward to their next summit at Rhodes in December. This is an opportune moment to conduct a reasoned debate, avoiding emotional polemics, on Europe and national sovereignty.

The central issue is how we Europeans can best organize ourselves institutionally to deal with the practical economic and political challenges that flow from our common commitment to the 1992 programme. It is not a left-right ideological conflict, since the Community is a competitive economic system. It is important to remember that with the ratification of the European treaties, concessions of sovereignty to autonomous European institutions have already occurred. An embryonic federal structure is in place even if its powers are confined to certain areas.

EEC membership itself constitutes an unambiguous rejection of the exclusive rights of decision-making by national government in the areas covered by the treaties. The direct application of Community law by national courts has brought about a constitutional change of enormous significance in each member state, several of which have had to modify their domestic constitutions in order to make this possible.

Peter Sutherland takes issue with Mrs Thatcher on sovereignty

EEC: unity without tears

In this sense, the Community is already an embryonic federal structure, although the scope of its activities and the range of areas in which it has superseded national authority remains limited. In agreeing to the Single European Act, the member states, including Britain, expressed their will "to transform relations as a whole among their states into a European Union".

What has not yet been decided is the rate at which we would progress towards this goal or the precise form it might take. What has been agreed, however — and this in itself constitutes a major step towards European integration — is the completion of the internal market by 1992 with its more precise economic and political consequences.

Far from promoting excessive intervention from Brussels, the removal of internal frontiers is the single most important element of deregulation throughout Europe which has been proposed this century. The Community is concerned to regulate only insofar as it is necessary to promote Community objectives.

The paradox is that sometimes "regulation" at Community level is necessary to provide a "deregulated" environment allowing the greatest freedom of competition and fair trade and investment. For example, the merger control regulation now under negotiation in the Council of Ministers will, when adopted, result in a "one-stop shop" for business rather than the present jungle of 12 national as well as Community controls.

The abolition of internal frontiers does raise issues about the control of transnational organized crime and terrorism. But I believe that improved police co-operation is a far better safeguard against these evils than the sort of systematic border checking at internal borders which is so meddlesome for the average traveller and costly to business but which the hardened terrorist or smuggler routinely circumvents. Police spot checks — such as that which resulted in the recent arrest of IRA gunmen in Germany near the border with Holland, an example mentioned by Mrs

Thatcher to justify retention of frontiers — would be unaffected by the abolition of internal frontiers in 1992.

The dismantling of internal frontiers requires some approximation of indirect taxation; that is why the Commission's proposals do not undermine the sovereign tax-raising powers of national governments but merely propose an agreement to keep levels of indirect taxation within certain bounds so that no justification will remain to maintain at internal borders barriers to the free movement of goods and services.

The reality of the Europe in which we live is that national protectionism, often stimulated and maintained by an unhealthy cosy relationship between national bureaucracies and protected industries, has consistently interfered with the development of the very competitive climate which is now generally recognized as the vital stimulant for efficiency and productivity. There is an inherent contradiction in working for the creation of an internal market by

1992 and denying the independent role and obligation of Community institutions to enforce Community law fairly even when this is contrary to the wishes of a national government.

Take the regulation of air transport or telecommunications, where some national administrations have sought to maintain an environment which is distinctly hostile to competition and which would have remained so but for intervention by the Commission.

To make sure that dismantled protectionist policies are not replaced by subsidies, the Commission may order that state aid which distorts competition be abolished or altered, as appropriate. Clearly, this does constitute an interference with national sovereignty as traditionally understood, but it is a particularly necessary one.

There is no vast bureaucracy in Brussels which seeks to impose itself on member states. The Commission — a very modest administrative comparable in size with the Scottish Office — is required to act

independently in reaching its decisions; and those decisions are subject to review by the European Court if member states or any concerned party consider that they have grounds for complaint. The institutions of the Community are at the service of the member states and of the people of Europe. If the process is not always as democratic as it should be (because much of the real decision-making power still lies with the Council of Ministers) then there are remedies for this.

It is inconsistent to criticize the institutions of the Community for being appointed rather than elected democratically, and at the same time, to ignore the claims of the European Parliament for powers which alone can develop control on a common European basis.

The debate between what belongs to Europe and what to the individual states will be with us for a long time to come. There will be a constant tension between those favouring greater federal power and those favouring retention of power by individual states. What is clear is that we have only four years in which to complete the internal market, which is a matter of pressing importance for the economic welfare of all our citizens.

The author is EEC Commissioner for Competition Policy and Relations with the European Parliament.

Charles Bremner

Truman—the Duke's lifeline

New York

America is supposed to be suffering the nastiest, sleaziest presidential campaign in memory. So what are the foulest insults that George Bush is hurling at his opponent? "Harvard liberal", "Card-carrying member of the American Civil Liberties Union", "What hideous calumny is the Democratic contender slinging back?" "Penthouse Republican" and "man of the past".

It is all mild stuff compared with the mud that has been slung throughout most of America's electoral past. In a campaign that is spending so much time trying to mobilize nostalgia for a nobler age, it is strange that so much has been forgotten. The lamentations this year usually hark back to an ideal America where plain men used mainly rhetoric to discuss "issues". But from George Washington, through Lincoln all the way to the 1950s, slander was the order of the day.

What if Dukakis tried something like "crook, drunkard, ignoramus, swindler, utterly depraved horse jockey", as President Grant was qualified by his opponent in 1872. Or "petty, mean, egotistic, erratic, eccentric, jealous-natured", as Alexander Hamilton called President Adams in 1800. Honest Abe Lincoln was denounced in his 1864 re-election campaign as liar, despot, thief, buffoon, robber, fiend and butcher.

Bush and his team are being derided for trying to terrorize voters with the spectre of a president who will be "soft on crime". But a bit of leniency towards felons is nothing compared with what the Federalist party predicted for the country if the Republican Thomas Jefferson was elected in 1800. "Murder, robbery, rape, adultery and incest will all be openly taught and practised... the soil will be soaked with blood and the nation black with crimes."

British observers have a long tradition of trying to convey the happy scurrility of American

elections. Lord Bryce, a visitor in 1884, wrote that one had to imagine that all the accusations brought against all 670 MPs were concentrated on one man.

In these more decorous times, the candidates and the "media culture" prefer to shun memories of the old bare-knuckle politics, though there is plenty still to be found in Chicago and one or two Senate contests.

The most-used reference this year is, of course, to the Kennedy administration, which ended in his assassination a quarter of a century ago. The ugliest thing that Lloyd Benenson could find with which to clobber Dan Quayle, his Republican vice-presidential opponent, was "You're not John Kennedy". In almost every appearance he makes, Dukakis invokes the parallel of the 1960s contest "when another son of Massachusetts and a man from Texas ran for the presidency".

In an exercise in purple prose this week, *Time* magazine said the Kennedy campaign was a case of history repeating itself as farce. The parallels were superficial, "wispy to the point of mere coincidence". The elections of 1960 and 1988, it said, are brackets enclosing a period of astonishing transformation. Where real men debated real issues in 1960, this is the year that the presidential campaign was dismantled, an election in which the candidates merely perform simulations of encounters with the real world.

But another chapter from electoral history is now emerging as the mythology of the day: the 1948 Dewey-Truman contest. Though they do not name it, this is the ghost that is haunting the Republicans when Bush says things like "I'm just going to try not to mess up now". On the Democratic side, the Dukakis staff have been digging into the history books and marvelling at what they see as the parallels. Most of all, Truman, like their



man, pulled it off after being given up for dead by the opinion polls and by his own party. But Dukakis himself has been more wary of this exercise in wishful history. He has only mentioned it once in public, last Wednesday during an appearance in Missouri, Truman's home state. He recalled the notorious *Chicago Tribune* headline, "Dewey defeats Truman", one of journalism's best-known gaffes and the one image from 1948 that has stuck in the popular mind.

But in reality, the similarities are as shaky as the Kennedy comparisons. For a start, the speechwriters were better in those days. One cannot imagine the Bush wordsmiths coming up with lines like "to err is Truman" and "We're just mild about Harry". Even more to the point, Truman was an incumbent president confronted by a country tired of war and a long era of Democratic rule. He was seen as a poor following act to Roosevelt, who had drafted him as vice-president, and he was

hampered by economic troubles, corruption and charges of being soft on communism. In contrast, the glib and able New York governor, a high-minded lover of generalities, could promise an era of change.

Unlike Dukakis, Truman was a fiery orator of the old bare-knuckle school. He flung away his texts for the seven months up to the election — something unthinkable in these days of scripted ad-libs — and stormed around the country haranguing the crowds from the back of a

train in his famous whistle-stop tour. Giving them hell, as he put it, Truman would lay into the Republican-controlled Congress, calling them things like "blood-suckers with offices in Wall Street". Though his targets are the same, Dukakis never reaches those heights even in his new populist mode.

Not is Dukakis a Harry Truman when it comes to talking straight on one of this year's core issues. "Everybody likes to have low taxes," Truman said, "but in times of prosperity, Dukakis prefers to imply that he can reduce the debt without raising taxes."

Unlike Dukakis, Truman had trouble being nominated at his own party convention, an event that was still more than a ritual mass. When Truman was chosen at 2am at the Philadelphia convention, white doves were released in celebration. Several plummeted to the floor and died from heat exhaustion, prompting the obvious quips about the candidate's chances.

It is in confounding the opinion polls that the 1988 Democrats would most like to copy Truman. Gallup, Roper and the others put Dewey at least 10 points ahead of Truman all the way to the election. Like this week's premature obituaries on Dukakis, *The New York Times* announced two months before the election that "Thomas E. Dewey's election as President is a foregone conclusion."

In 1948, the newspaper editors passed the buck for their misjudgement, saying they had based their views on figures from the opinion polls. *The Washington Post* did try to make amends, and it was of a kind that Dukakis must dream of. When Truman returned to Washington in triumph the *Post* hung a sign on its building that said: "Mr President, we are ready to eat crow whenever you are ready to serve it."

Commentary • RAYMOND PLANT

Loose-knit community

The idea of community is making a comeback across the political spectrum. It is being used as something of an umbrella term to indicate a range of worries about the economic and moral costs of economic individualism and some of the moral boundaries of individualism and markets.

The problem, as Raymond Williams once said, is that "community" is a warmly persuasive word, and as such what it embodies seems to be beguiling — who would not like to live in a community? But its meaning is almost wholly indefinite. Indeed, some theorists have argued that it has so many meanings as to be meaningless. Here lies the difficulty for those who wish to use the idea as the basis of a criticism of government policy. The Government can appeal directly to individuals and their own view of their interests. Critics, however, have to make the appeal of community more definite, but this is a theoretical enterprise without the direct appeal of individual self-enrichment.

It would also be a mistake for community to think that everyone is beguiled by its warm but indefinite appeal. Economic liberals are very hostile to the idea, at least at a national level. Many liberal thinkers, such as Hayek and Dahrendorf, have looked back to the 1930s, when the Nazis appealed to ideas of community (*Gemeinschaft*) as a basis for their appalling policies. The idea of *Folksgemeinschaft* was central to Nazi ideology and many liberal critics see community as confining and exclusive, making sharp distinctions be-

tween insiders and outsiders.

It also requires some kind of overall agreement on values and goals in society which is not compatible with either the liberal commitment to moral diversity or of the perceived moral fragmentation of the modern world. On the liberal view, the state should, as far as possible, be neutral between values and politics, should not be based upon a specific view of human virtue. If there is to be a role for community it must be for partial sub-political communities based upon individual consent and which are easy to leave. Clubs, churches, social groups of all kinds embody an acceptable ideal of community, but it is an ideal which has to be kept out of politics. Such communities are valuable because they are ways of extending individual interests.

However, it remains true that the version of a society of atomized individuals who value collective institutions, where they exist, only as convenient ways of advancing their individual interests has haunted many people since the first development of free-market capitalism. While the liberal exerts us to take on the strains of civilization and grow into a more anonymous and more free world, the words of Disraeli in *Sylvia* are still salient for many: "There is no community in England; there is aggregation, but aggregation

which makes it rather a disassociating principle rather than a uniting principle." This same vision, however vague, lies behind Mr Kinnock's "Me now" principle, or in Tom Wolfe's frightening evocation of modern urban life in *Bonfire of the Vanities*.

While the communitarian side of Conservatism has been eclipsed over the past ten years, it has not disappeared completely. It lies behind Mr Hurd's ideas on active citizenship. However, Sir Ian Gilmour made out the best recent case for community within the Conservative tradition in *Inside Right*, arguing that the free market should have clear moral boundaries based upon shared community values.

There are, I think, two reasons for this. The first is that the market is not itself a very good vehicle for legitimacy in that its outcomes are, to a degree, random and unprincipled and that if, as a society, more and more of our social life is made over to the morality of the market, citizens may feel less and less loyalty to such processes. Indeed, even so staunch a defender of the free market as Hayek has seen this.

In an extraordinary passage in *Law, Legislation and Liberty* he suggests that the legitimacy of the market may actually depend upon people having false beliefs about it, namely that it does reward according to a settled principle.

The second reason is that a good deal of the appeal which the market does have is that it delivers the goods via the much vaunted trickle-down effect. However, if the market dominates more and more of our

lives, then failures of the market may have dire results. When we have a wide range of institutions, including collective ones which are seen as valuable not just as ways of advancing self-interest but as embodying a sense of solidarity and community, then there are other sources of legitimacy and allegiance in society.

However, when most of our eggs are put in the basket of individual self-interest, the effects of market failures on the ties which hold societies together may be very profound. On this view, a sense of the integration of all people into society cannot just depend on the market: it has to be achieved also by giving due weight to institutions and policies which have the explicit aim of securing a sense of integration and community.

This is why the idea of an underclass to whom wealth has not trickled down should be disturbing to Conservatives. Their integration into society is going to have to depend on more direct public policy than the magic of the market.

In the light of this, one of the most disturbing legacies of the Thatcher years is that social institutions now seem to be valued for what individuals can get out of them rather than embodying some wider, vague but necessary sense of the societies' identity and solidarity. Once this idea has broken down, it is difficult to see how it can be recovered, and yet it could be vital, not least for a secure future for the market economy, which needs to operate within a wider framework of legitimacy.

The author is Professor of Politics at Southampton University.

OCT 22 ON THIS DAY 1966

THE TIMES

The disaster killed 144, of whom 116 were children.

200 LOST AS COLLIERY TIP ENGULFS SCHOOL

A death toll of about 200 is feared in the disaster at the Welsh mining village of Aberfan, Glamorgan, where yesterday morning a rain-soaked 800ft slag tip slipped and engulfed a school, a row of terraced cottages, and a farm. Early today known deaths totalled 86.

The slag was part of a colliery tip linked to the Merthyr Vale colliery. Two days of heavy rain are stated to have caused it to give way. Last night while 2,000 men and women worked under floodlights, using shovels, picks and their hands, the slag was still moving slowly. Several rescue workers were injured.

FROM OUR SOUTH WALES CORRESPONDENT ABERFAN, OCT 21

Few people saw the slag tip move when the disaster occurred here today, but those who did agree it came with frightening suddenness. There was a rumbling noise, and suddenly the village was engulfed in black dust.

People who arrived on the scene first could hear cries from those trapped on the fringe of the tip. Wreckage was strewn over a quarter of a mile. Pantglas school was almost demolished. Many children had been in the playground, which is now under 45ft of slag. Some had just filed into their classes for roll call.

As soon as the alarm was given, police, firemen, civil defence

workers, Red Cross and other volunteer groups were rushed in. The police sealed off most approach roads and set up an emergency headquarters in Merthyr Tydfil.

At first rescuers were hampered by fog. Then when they arrived they had to spend precious minutes leading away dozens of weeping women who were clinging at the slag.

The debris at two collieries near by were immediately stopped, and mines, their faces still covered with coal dust, formed chains to carry buckets of slag.

The National Coal Board said tonight in an official statement that abnormal rainfall had caused the tip to move.

For miles around clusters of asthen-faced people stood watching scores of trucks abutting to and fro carrying loads of slag. Some of the drivers were working turns of six hours or more. Indeed, many of the miners who toiled to shovel the slag clear had worked nonstop for 10 hours. One, whose little daughter is believed to be dead, was still digging at 6 o'clock in the evening. He had run three miles to get to the scene. About 25 houses that were at first unaffected have since been evacuated.

A civil defence official said tonight that the operation had become a fight against time. Engineers were doing all they could to halt the flow of slag. All available doctors in the area had been alerted and supplies of blood plasma are still arriving at the local hospital. One of the tragedies was that at noon today 250 pupils were due to break up for their half-term holiday.

Mr Glyn Williams, South Wales area president of the National Union of Mineworkers, said he could not comment on allegations that the tip was known to be unsafe until after a full inquiry.



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MONETARY MATTERS

Mr Nigel Lawson has for several weeks been gradually introducing markets and voters to reality. He has now become somewhat more blunt. The outlook, he told the Bankers and Merchants of the City of London at the annual Mansion House dinner, was one of slower growth, higher inflation and a current account deficit of £10 billion or more into the next decade.

There are arguments in mitigation. As Mr Lawson was quick to point out, because of the improved efficiency of the economy even a slower rate of growth could be perfectly respectable by historical standards while still achieving the necessary reduction in inflation.

The improved productivity in British industry means that output can rise more rapidly without coming up against bottlenecks in production. Even the worryingly fast growth in average earnings of 9.25 per cent has had little impact on unit costs so far because of the increase in productivity. A slowing of the economy from 4 per cent to 2.5 or 3 per cent would not be at all the same thing as the hair shirt of the 1970s.

Equally, trends in the underlying level of inflation tend to be exaggerated by the Retail Price Index. Because the index includes the cost of mortgage payments, whenever the Government sees inflation going up and acts to curb it by raising interest rates, the RPI immediately rises faster.

Similarly, on the way down, cuts in interest rates can slow the rate of retail price inflation rapidly. This should start to happen in the course of next year.

None the less, Mr Lawson was right to warn the Conservative Party conference that interest rates were likely to stay high for quite a while. In his speech at the Mansion House he claimed that they had already started to work by slowing down the rise in house prices and the level of new mortgage commitments. It would be more accurate to say that the evidence is still ambiguous. Yesterday's figures from the

building societies did show another decline in new commitments last month from the peak in June, but the rise during the summer coincided with the rush to beat the deadline set by the removal of tax advantages. The present level is still above the average of the second half of last year. Meanwhile, the latest figures for the money supply show no sign whatever of any slowing down.

The glaring omission from Mr Lawson's speech was any detailed exposition of what the Government's monetary policy now is. The Chancellor referred in an interesting passage, which he should develop, to the way in which monetary policy has had to adapt to the worldwide deregulation of capital flows and the enormous increase in such flows in recent years. As a result, all the major countries have now recognized the need to pursue policies which will promote "a reasonable degree of exchange rate stability". This was a discipline to be welcomed.

But the weight that should now be attached to exchange rate stability and the definition of what constitutes "a reasonable degree" of stability were left vague. The uncertainty this generates is one of the malign effects of the disagreement between the Chancellor and the Prime Minister earlier in the year.

The question is far from academic. It is an economic truism that a Government cannot have independent targets for both interest rates and the exchange rate for any length of time. Mr Lawson has said that interest rates will have to stay high for quite a while. How important will the performance of sterling be in determining when they can start coming down again?

The defeat of inflation requires both prudent policies and the perception of prudent policies in markets. Confidence is sustained by clarity and is undermined by obscurity. The Government must not give up on the long struggle to define its monetary objectives more precisely.

QUOTAS FOR CHRISTIANS

A proposal is to be put to the General Synod of the Church of England next month that the rules for its elections be so changed as to guarantee that at least 24 of its members are black. Though in principle a "temporary" expedient, it would apply at the 1990 synod election and thereafter. Though the synod may recognize the plan as well meant, it would be well advised to have nothing more to do with it.

The General Synod does not command such confidence either in the Church, in Parliament, or in the nation, that it can afford to take action which might reduce, in however small a way, its credibility as the Church's collective leadership and government. That credibility rests solely on the integrity of the democratic process by which synod members are elected.

It is true that the current fair and scrupulous process, based on the single transferable vote method, fails to produce a synod membership that accurately reflects the Church as a whole. Among the groups under-represented are those below the age of 40, those from classes other than the middle one, women, and those whose racial origin is Afro-Caribbean.

In the House of Laity certain occupations are under-represented too, and there is a bias towards the self-employed professions and the retired. Some important bodies of opinion are under-represented, particularly the sizable constituency of church-goers who do not share the General Synod's distaste for the present Conservative Government.

There are all sorts of reasons for these distortions, and any general alteration in the electoral method which tended to correct them would be welcome. But it is wrong in principle to single out any one such under-represented group, particularly as it is not necessarily the most serious example of these distortions, and invent arbitrary devices to increase its presence. The General Synod would be deluding itself if it believed that a guaranteed minimum of 24 black members would somehow render it

beyond criticism as a national representative assembly.

The Church of England's desire to make amends for its sometimes cool treatment of black Christians in the past is exemplary. Its concern to foster good race relations now is admirable. The establishment of a Committee for Black Anglican Concerns, as an adjunct of the General Synod itself, was an anomalous but useful improvement in the back-up available to the synod. But the synod has to be mature enough not to let its judgement be overthrown by guilt at past omissions.

The experience of operating racial minority quotas in other fields and other countries has been mixed, and sometimes damaging. They can be resented by the majority, by other minorities not so favoured, and even by the minority which is meant to benefit.

Although their intention may be the opposite, they can introduce racism where it was not present before, by treating the colour of a person's skin as the single most important fact about him. Christian doctrine — "in Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek" — should know nothing of skin colour or racial origin, and that is the message the Church should preach — and practise.

The Church of England must be especially careful not to incorporate uncritically into the life of the Church the ideologies of race relations which are foreign to its nature. "Blackness", as a socio-political concept rather than a description of skin pigmentation, is just such an alien notion.

It does no service, either, to liberation theology and its famous "option for the poor" to apply it indiscriminately to middle-class professional men and women with a West Indian or Asian racial origin, who are the most likely candidates for the sort of favouritism the synod is considering. There is no such short cut to the integration of new racial minorities into the life of the Church of England.

MR GUMMER'S OIL CAN

In his previous incarnations within the Government Mr John Gummer has shown himself to be sharp-tongued, even shrewish when there was a political — or theological — foe to be attacked. The Local Government Minister, as he now is, appears as a changed man, emollient and reasonable, a spreader of oil on troubled municipal waters.

He has well mastered his notoriously complex brief and made a good start yesterday when he introduced the new arrangements the Government hopes will tide over the existing system of rates and grants until the community charge becomes effective. His department appears to have squeezed a small contingency sum out of the Treasury that will allow it to oil wheels where necessary.

His bigger worry was revealed to be the preparations local authorities are making to collect the new charge. No one is so anxious any longer about the political will in stubborn Labour boroughs: even in Lambeth and Manchester the committees have made and pushed the right buttons to establish community charge registers and build collection systems. What is a much less certain is whether the near anarchy in such boroughs as Camden

and Brent, will stop the new fiscal machine being ready in time.

The Government has made significant financial concessions in its package of new grants for spending on staff and capital equipment. But Mr Gummer seemed prepared yesterday to make political concessions too.

In its efforts to ensure that the revenue from the community charge is actually collected (for without certain thresholds of collection being exceeded, the entire system could collapse) there appears to have been a significant concession of principle. These new grants are to be apportioned, at least in part, according to the difficulty local authorities will have in collecting the new charge. One factor, for example, would be the existence of large numbers living in multi-occupied accommodation.

But that is half-way to saying that councils which fail to collect enough poll tax should be compensated by higher grants, and that would defeat one of the purposes of the reform. Mr Gummer gives every sign of being the right man in a necessary job. He should keep his oil can in check, however, and not allow the spirit of charity to councils go too far.

Serious television

From the Editor of *World in Action*. Sir, It is disappointing that in working out her own "road to Damascus" conversion to popular current affairs which viewers care about, Jane Hewland (Media & Marketing, October 19) chooses to condemn all that has gone before her. Many of us have been aware for years that there are some editors in our industry who choose to make programmes that impress their friends rather than their real audience. This is not, and never has been, the mainstream of

current affairs on any channel. In the last year *World in Action* has made programmes about disruption in the classroom, burglaries, homelessness, the treatment of child cancer and life-support for premature babies; each of them important, popular issues which touch the lives of ordinary people.

These programmes did not need flashy graphics to make them attractive and important to large audiences. What these dull programme-makers, Ms Hewland complains about are more concerned with depth of research,

the integrity of the journalism and treatment, and allowing ordinary people to hear from other people like them who have gone through extraordinary experiences.

Properly handled, television has room for very popular as well as more serious current affairs programming. I doubt whether the best way to respond to the challenge is to rubbish all that has gone before.

Yours faithfully,
S. PREBBLE, Editor,
World in Action,
Granada Television Limited,
Manchester.

GPs' changing role within NHS

From Dr Madsen Pirie and Dr Eamonn Butler.
Sir, The rising demand for curbs on referral to hospital appears to ignore two factors. Self-referrals by the patients are largely outside the GP's control, given that access to him or her is reasonable, and the notion that all GP referrals are a bad thing is grossly oversimplified.

When I entered my father's practice in 1955, we had no open access to hospital departments, and could not work as we had been taught, using X-ray and laboratory evidence. General practice was rightly stigmatised as a cottage industry. Patients had to be referred to hospital consultants before any results could be obtained.

As a board member of the United Liverpool Hospitals, I was able to make a small contribution to procure (not without opposition from the hospitals) the availability of open access for my colleagues in the area, and we now enjoy a good working relationship with hospital consultants to whom we can present detailed information about the patients.

This kind of referral to hospital X-ray and laboratory departments allows the GP to retain clinical control and not abrogate it, and incidentally prevents the outpatients clinics from being further clogged with patients on whom the hospital doctors would otherwise have to perform identical preliminary investigations.

Not to use such tests which are within the GP's competence could well bring a charge of negligence, particularly now that the public is so much better informed of what can and should be done.

Yours etc.,
W. M. MACKEAN,
Lowood, Lyndhurst Road,
Mossley Hill,
Liverpool,
October 18.

Air-time ban

From the Director of Programmes, Channel Four Television.
Sir, Channel Four is the unnamed television company referred to by Mr Michael Mates in your report (October 20) of the Commons debate on the Home Secretary's statement. His reference is most misleading and damaging.

After Dark considered inviting Gary Adams on to the programme, not simply for him to express his views but to hold him to account for his apology for vile acts of terrorism against the programme.

Mr Mates cites this as an example of the media failing to put its house in order. He omits to mention that in fact the invitation was never issued and the programme was never made or transmitted because I, with the full agreement of the producers, decided that we could not gather enough other participants on that date of sufficient authority to ensure that the programme did not turn into a free run for Mr Adams and flout the normal standards of due impartiality.

Television was not then, nor I believe ever, what the Home Secretary calls an easy platform for terrorism.

Yours sincerely,
LIZ FORGAN,
Channel Four Television,
60 Charlotte Street, W1.

From the Chairman of the Cable Authority.
Sir, In the context of the restrictions imposed on broadcasting statements by representatives of certain organisations in Northern Ireland your leading article on October 20 raised the question of regulation by the Home Secretary of cable and satellite programmes.

Parliament decided in the Cable and Broadcasting Act to vest such powers in the Cable Authority. We yesterday exercised those powers by issuing a direction to all our licensees ordering them to follow the same rules as those applied by the Home Secretary to the BBC and IBA.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD BURTON,
Chairman, Cable Authority,
38-44 Gillingham Street, SW1,
October 21.

Bill of fare

From Mr R. Applebee.
Sir, I recently dined in a restaurant on Crete where the dishes on the menu were described as "Fare with lawful aggravation".

Can you think of a better way of designating prices inclusive of tax? Yours faithfully,
R. APPLEBEE,
19 Avenue des Moines,
1420 Braine l'Alleud, Belgium.

Rising interest rates
From Mr and Mrs Edward Frewin.
Sir, There is a great danger that managing the economy with interest rates alone could produce entirely the opposite effect to the one intended by the Treasury. The following examples may explain and illustrate the argument.

We as manufacturers are receiving regular notices of increased prices for raw materials as our suppliers seek to pass on their increases in interest payments. As

The final paragraph of yesterday's letter from Professor Ralf Dahrendorf should have read: Beyond that, however, the time has come to rethink what it is proper for government to do because only government can guarantee both effective action — government that is, constrained by the rule of law and parliamentary control, if not a sense of self-restraint which has always characterized the best governments of free countries.

From Dr William M. Mackean

Sir, The rising demand for curbs on referral to hospital appears to ignore two factors. Self-referrals by the patients are largely outside the GP's control, given that access to him or her is reasonable, and the notion that all GP referrals are a bad thing is grossly oversimplified.

When I entered my father's practice in 1955, we had no open access to hospital departments, and could not work as we had been taught, using X-ray and laboratory evidence. General practice was rightly stigmatised as a cottage industry. Patients had to be referred to hospital consultants before any results could be obtained.

As a board member of the United Liverpool Hospitals, I was able to make a small contribution to procure (not without opposition from the hospitals) the availability of open access for my colleagues in the area, and we now enjoy a good working relationship with hospital consultants to whom we can present detailed information about the patients.

This kind of referral to hospital X-ray and laboratory departments allows the GP to retain clinical control and not abrogate it, and incidentally prevents the outpatients clinics from being further clogged with patients on whom the hospital doctors would otherwise have to perform identical preliminary investigations.

Wright's recollection

From Sir David Hunt.
Sir, In the article on *Spycatcher* in *Spectrum* (October 14) you conclude that "Wright's memory on occasions appears unreliable." May I quote from the same column a more significant instance than the one you expose? Writing about an alleged operation in Cyprus, Wright says:

I arrived in Nicosia on January 17, 1959. The first step was to place a secure telephone tap on Makarios's palace.

He goes on to give picturesque details about climbing a telephone pole in total darkness beside a road patrolled by Makarios's armed bodyguards and Eoka guerrillas, neither of whom were operating at the time, and concludes that the tap was successfully installed.

What exposes this story is the date he gives. Makarios was not in the palace and had not been there for almost exactly three years. He left Cyprus on March 8, 1956, when he was deported to the Seychelles. He did not return to his palace until March 1, 1959, which was after the signing of the London agreement on independence for Cyprus.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HUNT,
Old Place,
East Wing,
Lindfield,
Sussex,
October 14.

Sunday trading

From Lord Boyd-Carpenter.
Sir, Mr Orlin in your issue of today (October 19) does a good service in drawing attention to the difficulty in which the present law on Sunday trading places prosecuting authorities at all levels. The principle that law must be respected and obeyed is endangered when the law in question is so silly that people regard it with contempt.

How can there be respect for a law under which it is lawful to sell a pornographic magazine on a Sunday but a criminal offence to sell a Bible? Or under which it is lawful for the monks of Buckfast to sell their admirable wines on a Sunday but under which they commit a criminal offence if they sell a crucifix?

It is surely the plain duty of Parliament to amend the law so as to make it make what people will regard as sense.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
BOYD-CARPENTER,
House of Lords.

From Dr Michael Schluter.
Sir, I was interested to read your analysis of the likely legislative

tenants we must expect to pay increased rents, since landlords will attempt to match rental income to that of interest bearing investments.

Our export efforts will falter as overseas customers anticipate the eventual and inevitable increase in sterling exchange rates. As employers we will come under pressure to increase the salaries of our staff who are most badly hit by high mortgage payments.

In common with 60 per cent of the population, we too have mortgages and probably larger than most, as many of us will have borrowed extensively on our houses to finance our businesses. The rest of our working capital will be in the form of loans and overdrafts, the cost of which have increased by nearly 50 per cent since March. These extra costs will have to be passed on to our customers who in turn will pass their own increased costs and ours on to their customers.

'Contracts' for young volunteers

From Mr Andrew Rowe, MP for Kent Mid (Conservative).
Sir, Mrs Thatcher, in her speech to the Conservative Party conference, said that the citizen has a responsibility — to the family, neighbours, then to the nation and beyond. The Government should pledge that every young person who chooses to spend up to a year working as a volunteer will be given the chance to do so.

The scheme would be open to anyone leaving school until their twentieth birthday, with a minimum "contract" for six months and a maximum for 12.

The "employer" would provide keep and spending money. At the end of the contract the Government would pay a small, tax-free honorarium for each month satisfactorily completed. National Insurance contributions would be credited.

Paid "managing agents" would match volunteers to user agencies and ensure that the placements were providing worthwhile experience.

A report would detail what each volunteer had done and record the standard of performance. It would include a record compiled by the volunteer. This would be an invaluable asset in subsequent interviews as an indicator of

suitability for training or employment.

As the scheme developed it would increasingly aim to provide volunteers with experience, either of working overseas or of exposure to conditions outside their usual circumstances.

I have no doubt that the whole country would benefit from a considerable increase in the numbers of its young people who have personal experience of giving in the service of others.

Yours etc.,
ANDREW ROWE,
House of Commons,
October 15.

From Mr Michael Grylls, MP for Surrey North West (Conservative).
Sir, "Active citizenship" is generally assumed to refer to charitable or community donations of time or money. Another source should include investment through the business expansion scheme, whereby those enjoying the tax relief should seek to promote local companies (and thus local employment and wealth) by passing on the benefits of their experience to the companies concerned.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL GRYLLS,
House of Commons,
October 19.

From Mr Bruce Hiscock.
Sir, Mr Willis informs us that the International Labour Organisation makes detailed and effective provision for supervising compliance with the conventions it adopts on human rights. These conventions include, amongst others, the right to belong to a trade union and the right to negotiate pay.

What Mr Willis does not tell us is whether employers also have the right to employ only people who are not union members and the right to relate pay to the performance of an employee's duties.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE HISCOCK,
110 Manor Forstal,
New Ash Green,
Dartford, Kent,
October 19.

Feather-bedded?
From Mr P. G. M. Greig.
Sir, Suppose I were a multi-millionaire landowner. If I were to plant 1,000 acres of "my" land with trees, the taxpayer would have to pay me £394,577 under the woodland grant scheme. If I were to plant 100 acres of arable land with beech and oak under the farm woodland scheme, I would be paid £39,457 and then receive an annual income of £7,689 for the next 40 years.

The taxpayer would have no legal right of access to these lucrative new private shooting estates.

If I agreed not to grow cereals on 1,250 acres of "my" arable land, probably quite unsuitable for cereals but made profitable by huge Government subsidies, I would be paid £100,000 every year.

Despite food surpluses and the damage wrought by intensive farming, the taxpayer would also pay me many thousands of pounds annually under a multitude of such measures as the agricultural improvement, sheep annual premium and hill livestock compensatory schemes.

To save me embarrassment, the taxpayer would not be permitted to know how much money I had received from him under these arrangements. This would be even more embarrassing if I happened to be a landowning member of the Commons or Lords, initiating and voting for these nest-feathering bonanzas.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP GREIG,
Bridge Farm,
Hannington Wick,
Swindon, Wiltshire,
October 18.

A fine line
From Mr J. Bunting.
Sir, If your correspondent, Mr Keith Elliott (October 17), leaves his copy of *The Times* on the train for others to read than that is an act of charity. If he leaves some other newspaper he is a litter lout. If, however, he leaves his copy of *The Times* with the crossword completed then he may be suspected of being a show-off.

Yours truly,
J. BUNTING,
77 Green Lane,
Buxton, Derbyshire.

From Mr Roger FitzGerald.
Sir, I am always on the look-out for newspapers left discarded on trains, so I would certainly regard Mr Elliott as charitable.

However, I wonder if I am doing a valuable service in keeping trains tidy, or am I just a scrounger?

Yours faithfully,
ROGER FITZGERALD,
124 Pepys Road, SE14.

From Dr R. A. W. Longden.
Sir, By leaving *The Times* on the compartment seat for others to find, read, and become informed, Mr Elliott is behaving exactly as enjoined by the *Daily Worker* many decades ago.

Neither loutish nor charitable, he is a *glasnostchik*!

Yours fraternally,
R. A. W. LONGDEN,
Greenbank, 41 High Street,
Amblecote,
Stourbridge, West Midlands,
October 17.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

October 21: The Princess Royal, President, Royal Yachting Association, this morning opened the Association's new Headquarters at RYA House, Romney Road, Eastleigh and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Hampshire (Lieutenant-Colonel Sir James Scott, Bt).

Her Royal Highness, Patron of The Bull Terrier, afterwards visited Parkhurst Prison, Isle of Wight and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the Isle of Wight (Captain The Lord Montagu).

The Princess Royal, President of The Save the Children Fund, this afternoon attended a Reception at Northwood House, Croydon.

Her Royal Highness, President, Riding, and the Disabled Association, subsequently visited Brickfields Equestrian Centre, Ryde.

Her Royal Highness, attended by the Hon Mrs Legge-Bourke, travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

KENSINGTON PALACE

October 21: The Duke of Gloucester arrived at Heathrow Airport, London this morning at the conclusion of his visit to Turkey and Pakistan.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon Bland was in attendance.

The Prince of Wales is to be President of the College of Estate Management.

Birthdays

TODAY: Lord Birkett, 59; Colonel J.N. Blashford-Snell, explorer, 52; Mr L.R. Carus, former principal, Birmingham School of Music, 61; Mrs B.D. Craig, former principal, Somerville College, Oxford, 73; Miss Catherine Deneve, actress, 45; Professor Charlotte Erickson, American historian, 65; Mr John Field, ballet director, 67; Major-General Lord Michael Fitzalan Howard, Gold Stick to The Queen, 72; Miss Joan Fontaine, actress, 71; Lady (Michael) Fox, director, British Institute of International and Comparative Law, 60; Mr Miles Hendrick, cricketer, 40; Miss I. Hindmarsh, former principal, St Aidan's College, Durham, 65; Mr Derek Jacoby, actor, 50; Mrs Doris Lessing, author, 69; Lord Lloyd of Hampstead, QC, 73; Mr Donald McIntyre, opera singer, 54; Mr Michael Siou, racehorse trainer, 43; Vice-Admiral Sir Fitzroy Talbot, 79; Mr A.R. Thatcher, former Registrar General for England and Wales, 62; Admiral Sir David Williams, former governor, Gibraltar, 67; Professor D.G.T. Williams, president, Wolfson College, Cambridge, 58; Professor John Wing, psychiatrist, 65; Sir Hugh Wintner, hotelier, 80.

TOMORROW: Mr Johnny Carson, American broadcaster, 63; Major Edwin Coven, former Chief Commoner, 67; Lord Hunt of Tanworth, 69; Professor Sir Frank Lawson, professor of operative dental surgery, 73; Mr Iverach McDonald, former associate editor, *The Times*, 80; Viscount Massereene and Ferrard, 74; Pele, footballer, 48; Sir Herbert Pollard, former city treasurer, Kingston upon Hull, 90; Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede, 58; Lord Remnant, 58; Sir Ralph Riley, agriculturalist, 64; Mr G.H.W. Rylands, CH, Shakespearean scholar and producer, 86; The Earl of Shannon, 64; Baroness Trumpington, 66; Baroness Young, 62.

Clifford Longley

Changing view of Thatcherism

The churches have been at loggerheads with Mrs Margaret Thatcher almost from the day she was elected nine years ago, although they were sparring not so much with the lady herself but with some of her opponents — and now even some of her supporters — call Thatcherism.

It has been an infinitely frustrating contest on both sides, however, because there is no precise political creed of that name, and its enemies define it differently. It is also mutable, and church critics of the Government are entitled to take some comfort from certain recent shifts reported by political commentators. Thatcherism in late 1988 appears to have taken on board some of the things that were being said by its critics, ecclesiastical as well as political.

The argument has also been frustrating because Thatcherism has its own views on the proper role in society for institutions such as churches, which do not fit well with how they see themselves, confounding the cross purposes. As in economic Thatcherism, this is an individualistic conception, summed up by the Thatcherist writer Rachel Tingle, in her recent pamphlet *Another Gospel*, as the business of extending the Kingdom of God by "individuals become Christians... The way the churches can help usher in the Kingdom is through personal evangelism."

This was once the standard line among Evangelicals though it has largely been repudiated, according to the Rev Pat Dearnley, director of the Church Urban Fund. Writing in the latest edition of *Third Way*, an Evangelical monthly, he states that Anglican Evangelicals are now on the left of the political spectrum, emphasising the communal and collective dimension rather than individual activity, "for the sake of the Kingdom." This politicisation of the Evangelical Movement has been one of the most significant in church-government relations, for it has withdrawn from Thatcherism what could have been a large constituency of support in the Church of England. For they were once more or less entirely apolitical or right-wing, almost an early version of the American "moral majority" and therefore natural Thatcherites.

Instead, without any significant strand of church opinion on her side, she has been faced with an almost united front of church criticism, distrust and incomprehension. Undoubtedly one of the difficulties has been that even among those senior Conservatives who have wanted to engage with the churches, few of them are theologically literate, and their understanding of Christianity has sometimes been stated simplistically.

The latest edition of the magazine *New Statesman and Society* reproduces part of a long article in the July edition of *New Blackfriars*, the journal of the English province of the Dominican Order, by Dr Nicholas Boyle, fellow of Magdalene College, Cambridge, in which he declared: "In recent months there have been signs that the hypnotic spell of Thatcherism is waning, and that a new and more fundamental debate is beginning within, between, and outside the political parties... It is no accident that the churches have been prominent in bringing about the present discussion."

Though a Roman Catholic, he gives most of the credit to the Church of England, which he says has been willing to risk disestablishment while his own church was still pursuing respectability and still scared of the suspicion of treason.

His thesis is that Thatcherism is essentially about the radical modernisation of the British state along Continental lines, discarding customs and traditions — including the concept of the national community as a moral entity — that do not fit. He cites Napoleonism, Leninism and contemporary Eastern European socialism as models for such a "modern" state. In the process citizenship is being reduced, as Marx reduced it, to narrow economic terms, either as producer or consumer; and so there is no longer any higher idea of what "being British" is about. Britain's role in the Empire once answered such questions, and the end of empire left an absence of vision into which Thatcherism has moved.

Dr Boyle's analysis suggests the very inevitability of the revolution called Thatcherism that the Prime Minister herself claims for it. It also explains why in the earlier phase of the church-government argument the churches got

the worst of it, for they were defending a pre-1979 social and political consensus in support of a world-view that was both fundamentally unstable and obsolete.

The Prime Minister's conversation with bishops at Chequers last year and several subsequent attempts at dialogue with the churches, can be seen as a sign of recognition that what Dr Boyle says about the materialism and hollowness of the first edition of Thatcherism is felt to be true; and that it therefore needs modification.

The Home Secretary's concept of the "active citizen", and some features of the Prime Minister's recent address to her party conference, both imply that life ought to be about something other than the satisfaction of economic needs as the churches have said all along. But who is to decide what it is about?

In spite of the left-wing perception of her as a budding ideological dictator, Mrs Thatcher herself eschews such a role. The basic complaint of the Government against the churches is that they have not given a strong enough lead in these directions; but that is not very different from the basic complaint in the other direction. Mrs Thatcher said in an interview last year: "Parliament isn't the great institution of life. Churches are your great institutions, as are your great voluntary associations."

Yet the churches have contributed to the view, which Mrs Thatcher seems to regard as a myth, that Parliament is somehow "the nation in council", the supreme and symbolic representative body of the community in all its aspects, to which the nation can look for every variety of leadership, moral, political, social, even spiritual. But it is part of an *integrist* model of a Christian state, a powerful symbolic component of which is the concept of an Established Church. Thatcherism is a movement away from such a vision — a modern state is a secular state.

The most significant proposal made by Dr Boyle in his *New Blackfriars* analysis is that the nation now needs what all other modern states have found they needed, a written constitution and a Bill of Rights, in which the British people can declare "who they are and how they wish to arrange their lives." But it had better be done before they forget who they were.

OBITUARIES

PIERO FORNASETTI

Italian designer who worked with images, illusion and ideas

Piero Fornasetti, the Italian designer who was among those spearheading the break with post-war austerity in the 1950s, died in Milan in October 15, aged 74. An endlessly inventive artist, he once estimated that he had produced more than 11,000 designs for silk scarves, dinner services, chairs, screens, cabinets and even ashtrays and waste paper bins.

Born in Milan in 1913, Fornasetti studied sculpture and painting at the Brera Academy of Arts, and showed an early interest in the possibilities of photo-gravure and lithography. Among his earliest commercial designs were silk scarves for the French firm, Jacquard, but he also executed frescoes for the University of Padua and designed the interior of a restaurant in Milan.

In 1939, the Italian architect Gio Ponti saw his work exhibited at the Milan Triennale, and they began a fruitful

collaboration that lasted until the 1960s. Fornasetti's addition of a decorative element of "luxurious surrealism" to Ponti's buildings included such schemes as a vast Venetian blind for the ballroom of the Time-Life Building in New York.

Their celebration of decoration, wit and illusion in architecture was a challenge to the prevailing post-war doctrine of rationalism, and in the 1950s and 1960s Fornasetti's work became internationally chic and popular.

The fecundity and versatility of Fornasetti's imagination was limitless, "Ideas," he said, "lead to ideas; this is the simplest thing in the world." He liked to play with images and ideas, creating illusions and juxtaposing the modern with the antique, classical beauty with such worthless paraphernalia as hats, pipes or playing cards.

His furniture designs played on ideas of the city as theatre.



or of furniture as architecture, with screens showing Milan Cathedral disappearing under water or chairs decorated as broken Roman pediments. A series of six black and white portrait plates of an anonymous Mona Lisa beauty grew to 350 and was named "Themes & Variations".

In the 1970s Fornasetti closed his Milan workshop, and felt bitter that the golden people who had made his work famous had deserted him: "It is too sad," he said, "for a thing to be fashionable only for one season." But in the 1980s this subtle, shy and sometimes difficult man who liked to hide behind his own illusions was discovered by a new generation interested in 1950s design, and he had begun to exhibit his work and produce limited editions of his earlier designs once more.



EIRIKUR BENEDIKZ

A force for good Anglo-Icelandic relations

Mr Eirikur Benediktsson, an influential figure for many years in Anglo-Icelandic relations, has died at the age of 81.

Benediktsson, a scholar as well as a diplomat, had a deep knowledge of English life and culture which helped particularly when relations were strained between the two countries by the "Cod Wars".

Benediktsson served in London from 1942, when a Legation was set up following the creation of a separate Icelandic diplomatic service, until

1978 when he retired as Minister Counsellor. For 25 of these years he was also honorary Lecturer in Modern Icelandic at University College London.

During the successive "Cod Wars" he strove to prevent irreparable damage to relations and when, in 1973, these were temporarily severed, Benediktsson stayed on in London as a sign of Reykjavik's desire for better times. The basis of his understanding of this country had been

laid studying English at Cambridge and Leeds Universities. On his return to Reykjavik Benediktsson conducted a highly popular English by radio programme for several years.

In his later years he worked on compiling an Icelandic-English dictionary for which a publisher had been found just before he died.

Benediktsson married Margaret Simcock, a fellow student at Leeds, in 1931, who survives him with their five sons.

JOHN BALL

Creator of Black Detective Virgil Tibbs

John Ball, author of the thriller *In the Heat of the Night* which introduced the American black detective, Virgil Tibbs, died on October 15, aged 77.

Sidney Poitier played the part of the detective when the novel was made in 1967 into a successful film which won four Oscars. For the novel Ball also won the Edgar Award conferred by the Mystery Writers of America.

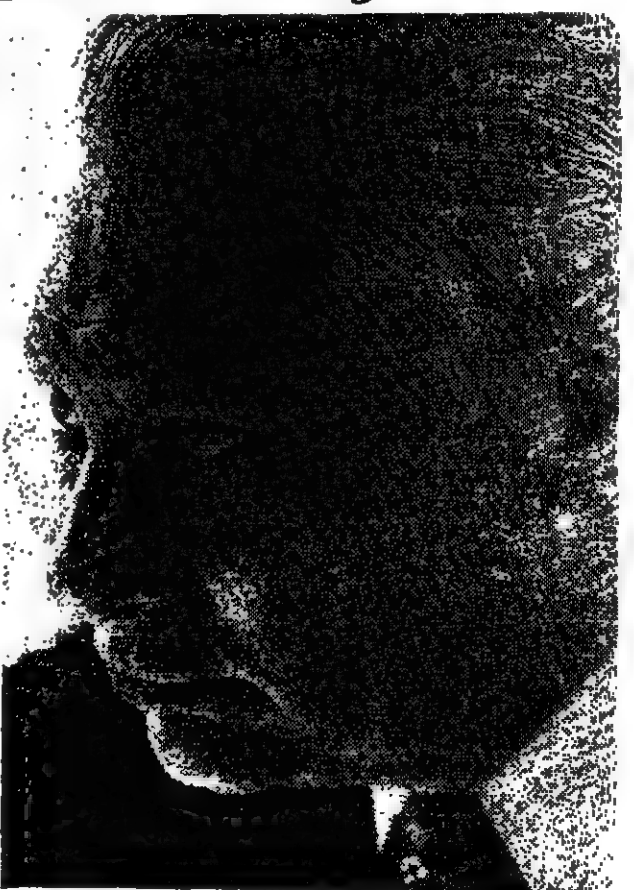
Ball followed in the steps of Raymond Chandler and Dashiell Hammett, but, defying the tacit conventions of the genre, decided to create a soft-spoken policeman, who happened to be black.

Virgil Tibbs in *In the Heat of the Night* found himself obliged to solve a murder case after a police chief had arrested the black detective from California on suspicion while he was visiting his mother at home in the Deep South. The twist was that Tibbs specialized in murder cases. It was Rod Steiger who played opposite Poitier as the suspecting police chief.

Ball was also awarded the Golden Dagger by the British Crime Writers' Association.

Born in New York, Ball was brought up in Milwaukee. In the 1940s and 1950s he was a music critic and record reviewer.

The author of 35 books, which were translated into 17 languages, Ball was chiefly known for his mystery novels.



but he had also written novels about aviation and the Orient. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1942 to 1945 and held a commercial pilot's licence.

Ball was a vice president of the Mystery Writers of America.

THE DUKE OF ST ALBANS

Mr E. B. Brooks-Baker writes:

The 13th Duke of St Albans (obituary Oct 11) was without doubt one of the most popular members of the aristocracy. But because much of his official work of the past was of a secret nature there is much

that will not pass into the public domain. However, one little known incident of his past not only made common history but illustrated his ingenious and inventive mind.

While serving in an official capacity in Vienna after the Second World War, he ad-

vised Carol Reed, the film director, to use the labyrinthine sewers for *The Third Man*. The scene which remains involving Trevor Howard, Orson Welles and Joseph Cotten, must be the most atmospheric to appear in a post-war thriller.

Weekend royal engagements

TODAY: Prince Edward will attend the Traverse Theatre silver jubilee ball at the Royal Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, at 8.45.

TOMORROW: Prince Edward will visit the St Mary's Cathedral workshop project, Edinburgh, at 2.30 and will attend evensong in the cathedral.

The Princess Royal, as President of the Royal Yachting Association, will attend the finals of the Eric Twinn Regional Junior Championships at West Kirby Sailing Club, The Wirral, Merseyside, at 1.30.

Memorial services

Mr James Longmore
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr James Longmore was held yesterday at St Peter's Church, Bishop's Waltham, Hampshire. The Rev Mary Macvicar and the Rev G.R. Paterson officiated. Major Patrick Snowball, son-in-law, and Major Peter Longmore, brother, read the lessons. Mr David Booth gave an address.

Brigadier Colin Maxwell
The Ambassador of Oman was present at a memorial service for Brigadier Colin Maxwell held yesterday in the Grosvenor Chapel, South Audley Street.

The Rev A.W. Marks officiated. Father Colin Maclean and Colonel David Smiley read the lessons. Major-General John Graham gave an address.

Captain R.J. Kemp
and Miss C.S. Millar
The engagement is announced between Richard Kemp, Royal Anglian Regiment, second son of the late Mr John Kemp and of Mrs Kemp, of the West, of Malden, Essex, and Clare, only daughter of Mr Douglas Millar, FRCS, and Mrs Millar, of London, Colchester, Essex.

Mr G.S. Kenyon
and Miss J.E. Morgan
The engagement is announced between Guy Kenyon, of Ringland, Norfolk, and Judith Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs E.M. Morgan, of Kettering, Northamptonshire.

Mr A.C.R. Richardson
and Miss N.L.T. du Pré
The engagement is announced between Guy Richardson, son of Mr and Mrs M.C. Richardson, of Reading, Berkshire, and Nina Miranda du Pré, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs M.G.K. du Pré, of Maidenhead, Berkshire.

Mr N. Peerman
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Forthcoming marriages

Mr C.D. Adams
and Miss J. Banks
The engagement is announced between Charles David, younger son of Mr and Mrs R. Adams, of Ilkley, West Yorkshire, and Judith, daughter of Mr and Mrs H. Banks, of Wolverhampton.

Mr A.D. Bartles
and Miss V.J.E. Forbes
The engagement is announced between Alisdair Douglas, elder son of Mr and Mrs Jack Bartles, Craig Rhynie, Aberdeenshire, and Victoria Jane Elizabeth, only daughter of the Rev John and Mrs Forbes, The Manse, Edzell, Angus.

Mr S.M. Brown
and Miss F.J. Mackenzie
The engagement is announced between Steven, son of Mr and Mrs J.T. Brown, New York City, and Fiona Jane, daughter of Professor and Mrs D.W.R. Mackenzie, Little Brickhill, Buckinghamshire.

Mr R.N.H. Dunlop
and Miss C.M. Duffresne
The engagement is announced between Ninian, son of Mr and Mrs Alastair Dunlop, of Edinburgh, and Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Daniel Duffresne, of Ventura, California.

Mr J. Harding
and Miss D.A.H. Arundell
The engagement is announced between Julian, only son of Mr and Mrs J. Harding, of 121 Eric Street, Cottesloe, and Devon, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Arundell, of 19 Bindarig Parade, Claremont, Western Australia.

Mr C.V. Patten
and Miss J.F. Lavelle
The engagement is announced between Clive, son of Mr R. and Mrs D. Patten, of Southampton, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs S. Lavelle, of Rugby.

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Service dinners

Nato HQ, Oslo
The King of Norway, an Honorary Admiral of the Fleet, last night attended the Royal Navy's Trafalgar night dinner at the Oslo headquarters in Oslo.

Commodore B.D. Salway presided. General Sir Geoffrey Howlett, Commander-in-Chief Allied Forces Northern Europe, was also present.

London Division RNR
The Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs attended the annual Trafalgar Night dinner of the London Division Royal Naval Reserve held last night in HMS President, Commander T.C. Haile presided and Vice-Admiral Sir Hugh Thompson proposed the toast to the "Immortal Memory".

The guests were received by Captain G.B. Jones and included Prime Wardens of the Fishmongers' and Shipwrights' Companies, the Master of the Coopers' Company and the Deputy Master of the Master Mariners' Company.

Allied Forces Southern Europe
Vice-Admiral N.R.D. King presided at a Trafalgar Night dinner given last night in the Allied Officers Club, Allied Naval Forces Southern Europe, by Officers of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, WRNS and QARNNS serving in Naples.

Lieutenant-General N. Griffin, Jr, United States Army, was the guest of honour.

Royal Naval Engineering
Admiral Sir James Eberle was the guest of honour at the Trafalgar night dinner held last night at the Royal Naval Engineering College, Manadon, Plymouth. Commander C.D. De Burgh presided.

The Royal Scots
Mr Malcolm Rifkind, QC, MP, and Brigadier M. Thomson were guests at a regimental dinner of The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) held last night at Glenconce Barracks, Milton Bridge, Midlothian. Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Richardson, Colonel of the Regiment, presided.

The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment
The Lord Lieutenant for Cheshire, the Mayor of Chester and the Chairman of Cheshire County Council were the guests at the annual dinner of The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment Officers' Association held last night at the Town Hall, Chester. Brigadier W.K.L. Prosser, Colonel of the Regiment, presided.

51st (Highland) Division
Mr J.R. Garmmel presided at a reunion dinner of the 51st (Highland) Division Dinner Club held last night at the Glencairn Hotel, Luton. Lieutenant-General Sir John MacMillan, GOC, The Army in Scotland, was the guest of honour.

43rd Gurkha Lorried Brigade
Major W.C. Rogers presided at the reunion dinner of the 43rd Gurkha Lorried Brigade Reunion Association held last night at the RAC, Lieutenant-Colonel R.F. Richardson, Airborne Liaison Officer Brigade of Gurkhas, was the principal guest.

Sultan's Armed Forces Association
The Ambassador of Oman and Sayid Faher bin Taimur Al Said were the principal guests at the annual dinner of the Sultan's Armed Forces Association held last night at the Naval and Military Club. Major-General K. Perkins presided.

RAF College Cranwell
Wing Commander M.H. Codd presided at a ladies' guest night dinner held last night at RAF College Cranwell. Air Vice-Marshal R.H. Wood, Air Officer Commanding, and Commandant RAF College Cranwell, also spoke. An oil painting by Mr Roger Steel depicting a Harrier aircraft over Goose Green during the Falklands conflict was presented to the college by British Aerospace. Among others present were: Major-General Sir John MacMillan, GOC, The Army in Scotland, and Mrs MacMillan.

RAF Biggin Hill
Wing Commander B.W. French presided at a ladies' night dinner held last night at RAF Biggin Hill. Air Commodore J.A. Bell, AOC and Commandant, Officers and Aircrew Selection Centre, also spoke. Wing Commander and Mrs C.L.E. Skellern and Wing Commander and Mrs D.J. Reason were the principal guests.



شركة النفط

SHOPPING

Utility belt baubles

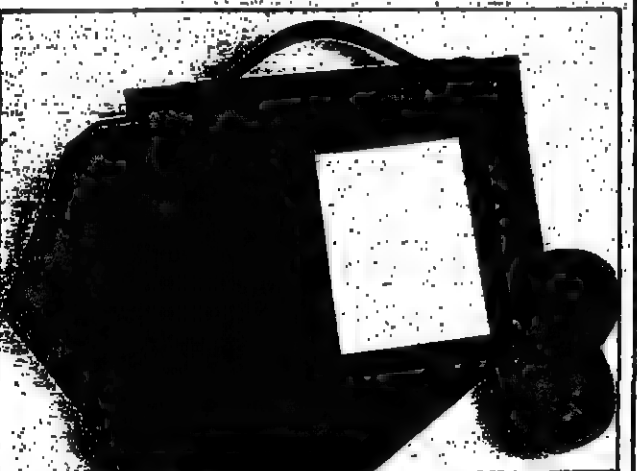
From the man who gave us the hi-tech uplighter and the £300 desk light comes a new store, offering functional fun and relief from matt black. Deyan Sudjic reports

Geoffrey Harris is the man who created Oggetti: the Fulham Road's ruthlessly monochrome shrine to the icons of modern consumerism. With an obsessional attention to detail he presides over what looks more like an art gallery than a shop. In quasi-religious gloom, you can make out a few sparse slivers of precious matt-black plastic impaled in the beam of dichroic spotlights, held like sacred relics in glass cases, constantly polished and cleaned by the soberly dressed attendants. Swiss Army penknives and Bauhaus building blocks co-exist with architect-designed kettles, here to appeal to the Saturday-morning crowds attracted by that recreational shopping, the remarkable new phenomenon which has already transformed Brompton Cross. This is the BMW generation's version of Asprey: a place to buy things whose main function is to look good when gift-wrapped. But what makes Oggetti different from Asprey, apart from the prices, which are not so far into the stratosphere, is the illusion of utility.

well, they are nice things, and they will always be nice." In fact they sell so well that on Monday, Nick Hasler, who has overseen Oggetti's rapid growth, and Harris are to open a new branch the size of a department store, next door to their present Jermyn Street outpost in what used to be the headquarters of David Hicks's decorating business. The basic formula is much as before: 20th century design classics. But Harris has widened his range, and is offering more one-off pieces, even a hint of colour, and the interior itself has bowed a little in the direction of the Jermyn Street vernacular.

The floor tiles are patterned like argyle socks, there is even a little wood. But if Jermyn Street has changed Oggetti, Jermyn Street has also been affected by the presence of its upstart newcomer. "When we first opened there three years ago, 75 per cent of the shops closed on Saturdays. Now they are all open, including the cheese places," Harris says. Another prime shopping ground is emerging, it seems.

Oggetti began as a sideline to London Lighting, the Fulham Road shop, that Harris



Briefcase £150; pen £112.70; box £247; box, £257.50

Beautifully crafted spirit levels probably are not going to end up being used by Knightsbridge DIY types, but they do have a comforting sense of purpose about them. You can give one as a present secure in the knowledge that the recipient will know that you aren't expecting them to get down to a spot of carpentry. Yet you can both maintain the polite fiction that this isn't something that is simply going to sit on a desk looking seductive.

It is a remarkably potent combination of puritanism and hedonism, which says a lot about the mores of conspicuous consumption. Displayed in a glass case, abstracted from the mundane context of a hardware shop, utilitarian equipment takes on another role. Good to touch, and handsomely engineered, it is tinged with nostalgia for the days when work meant getting your hands dirty.

Oggetti helped to turn high design into the status symbol of the 1980s. But Harris is uncomfortable about being regarded as an evangelist, or as a taste monger for a particular look. "It's not some kind of a statement, it's not telling anybody how to live, it's just that these are the things I like, and we hope the customers like them too," he says, wary of a backlash against Oggettism. "Braun calculators and Maglite torches still sell very

started after leaving Habitat's lighting department. Since then, things have changed: a case full of matt-black artefacts is now *de rigueur* in every high street branch of Next. Oggetti's target audience has moved up-market in its tastes now that its toys have become so widely available, and Oggetti is moving with it. The secret of Harris's success is knowing just where to pitch things catering for his particular audience. "We sell a lot of leather wallets in the £40 bracket - that's expensive for a wallet, but it's not all that much money. But a £700 briefcase is just ridiculous."

Jermyn Street has helped precipitate a shift of emphasis. "We get people coming down after they have looked around Bond Street, and they want something a little more expensive. They don't really want a trendy £75 watch, they want something that will last." What Harris offers will range from Eileen Gray furniture to specially made Lloyd Loom dog baskets. Fornasetti plate, handmade one-offs from ex-Royal College of Art students, leather items, luggage, and of course all those Alessi kettles, Braun calculators and Maglite torches, which metropolitan sophisticates may dismiss as old hat, but which appeal to an apparently ever growing audience.

"We sell leather wallets in the £40 bracket. But a £700 briefcase is just ridiculous"



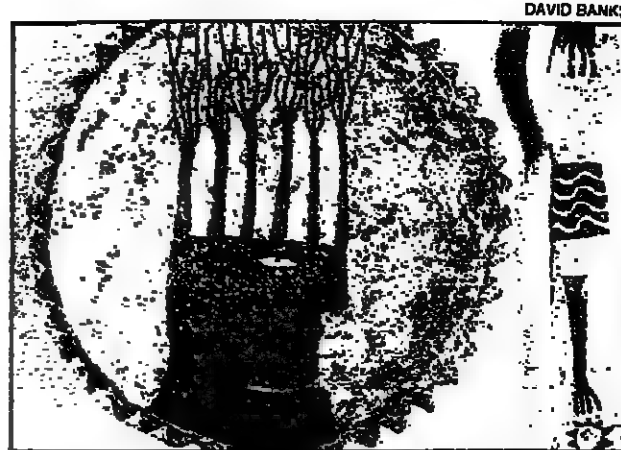
Cult objectives? Nick Hasler (left) and Geoffrey Harris, co-founders of the expanding Oggetti store



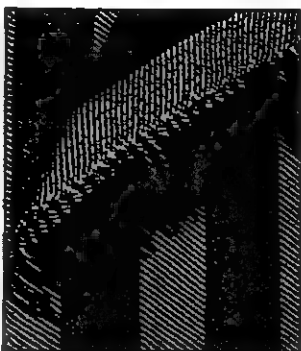
Typewriter cuffs: keys, £24.50; numerals, £39.50



Hand-painted vase by Daniel Wright, £300; hand-finished glass tumblers, £23-£35



Ethnic ceramic bowl and spoon by Daniel Wright, £95



Herringbone blanket, £51; decorated "face" plates by Melinda Patton, £50 each



THE FACTOR BEHIND ALL GREAT PERFORMANCE

Beethoven created some of the greatest music the world has ever heard. Yet even at the height of his powers, he was almost completely deaf. So deaf in fact, that he could barely hear his piano as he composed. Undeterred he is reported to have sawn the legs off the piano to be able to feel the vibration of each note through the floor.

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Last orders for the in-betweens if brewers' ties are loosened

I am old enough to remember Eddie Taylor, in his day Canada's leading brewer, forecasting that the number of leading breweries in the United Kingdom would, through merger and acquisition, drop to 12. The beerage fell about laughing at the Canadian's ignorance. He was of course wrong: the number has already dropped to six (excluding Guinness) and will be down to five if John Elliott, the determined Australian, succeeds in adding Scottish & Newcastle to Courage and making Elders IXL a power second only to Bass in Britain. Elders' £1.6 billion bid (an economical 400p a share) is hotly contested by S&N and it will be mildly astonishing if it is not referred.

Even if S&N does not succumb to Elders, its future as an independent brewer occupying the middle ground between the nationals and the leading regional companies is limited.

If the contemporary Taylors are right, the world brewing industry within a decade will be dominated by at most half a dozen groups: Anheuser-Busch, all powerful in the American market and moving towards a large acquisition in Britain; Kirin (Japan); an Australian amalgam of John Elliott's interests with Alan Bond's, with Mr Bond first pitching for Allied-Lyons, a European group centred probably on Heineken; an expanded Carlsberg, perhaps. In this scenario there is room for small, niche brewers but none for the in-betweens.

This is an oversimplification of course. Brewers, notably the British and German, have an instinct for survival. But the trend towards fewer and bigger is already evident and it is likely to be accelerated by the report, expected in February, from the Monopolies Commission which has been looking into the tied estate.

So far several such inquiries have



KENNETH FLEET

done little other than sustain the tie. They find that the brewer and tenant arrangement restricts competition, limits customers' choice, keeps prices high, ensures high margins for the better companies and enables the inefficient to stay in the grand manner to which they are accustomed. Then they decide that the alternative is either to be too difficult or likely to upset the drinking classes more than the tied system.

The announcement of the current investigation caused not a ripple of concern. In 1983 the industry had to accept a decree of the Competition Directorate of the European Commission ending, admittedly slowly, the brewers' tie on all products — save beer. The mood has since changed. The report is expected to be strongly critical of the tied estate and radical in its recommendations for change.

How radical is the question. If the commission wanted to take its courage in both hands, it would advocate breaking the link between brewing and retailing. A cut as clean as this might be more than the Government would stand. It would enable the lions of the trade to devour the sheep, while at the same time making even the biggest domestic brewers, notably Bass, more attractive prey to foreign brewers like Busch and the Japanese.

But the tied estate cannot escape this time, though the Government might drag its feet. It confers advantages on the brewers that exist nowhere else: a guaranteed supply of beer, assured

outlets for the owning brewers' new products full listed prices (no discounts or other incentives have to be given) and the cost benefits of a known throughput. In a climate of deregulation and dedication to competition, the least the Commission could recommend and the Government accept is a large modification of the tie.

In deference to the small brewers the tie might be kept for estates of up to say 250 pubs: diluted with national and other brands on the counter for estates between 250 and 750 pubs; and abolished for the big brewers.

If S&N goes and the Monopolies Commission report seriously threatens the beer tie, speculative interest in the stock market will be focused on Bass as well as Allied. Whitbread is protected by family shareholdings and GrandMet may be too large and too diversified to be easily swallowed by another brewer.

Of the two, Bass might become more vulnerable than Allied. Elders' first British target and lucky to have escaped, Allied was shaken to good effect. Sir Derrick Holden-Brown, the chairman, has had his finest hour. Always a good political lobbyist, his poison pill in the shape of Hiram Walker has proved sweet and nutritious, with the added sugar of Olympia & York, which sold the outstanding 49 per cent in H.V. to Allied and now has an agreeable and accommodating 10 per cent shareholder in Allied. The new joint venture agreement with Suntory, which emerges with a supportive 2.5 per cent of Allied, looks like another masterstroke. The Warburg teach-in conducted by Michael Valentine and Sir David Scholey has clearly had excellent results. Allied has been given a shape and identity it lacked two years ago. Alan Bond may well bid but success would not be guaranteed.

A guide to alternative investments

The first anniversary of the October Crash passed without thunderbolts, an eclipse of the sun or the nocturnal screaming of witches on broomsticks. In four important speeches (the latest at the Mansion House on Thursday) Nigel Lawson has carefully described the worst scenario for the British balance of payments and inflation: anything less had will therefore be construed by the City as progress. The Chancellor needs a sound, i.e. mean and tight-lipped, Autumn Statement on public expenditure to help in his restoration and the financial world needs George Bush to be elected — both events scheduled for November. The kicker the stock market needs is a feeling that interest rates at their present level are doing their job of curbing demand and lessening inflationary pressure, and the next

move, albeit months away, is down.

Unlike Tokyo where the market is above the pre-Black Monday level and New York where it is not far short, London is still 20 per cent off. The conventional equity ratios are not expecting a lot and the pace of bids and deals, which have generated most of the business and saved the City's profits from starvation (a relative term), is moderating. Thanks to last month's money burning hole in the market, investors' pockets are heading for a huge £2.4 billion by the year end. In short, while the firm beginning of the next bull market is still months away, the "second leg of the bear market" school is shifting its ground.

The relative performance of sectors of the market and individual stocks since the crash is interesting and may be instructive. The sectors that have

done best are overseas traders, property, leisure, food manufacturing, brewers, electricals and telephone networks. Those that have done worst are textiles, other financials, merchant banks, agencies, newspapers and publishing, stores, motors and chemicals.

Looking at shares that make up the FT-SE index the Foulis stocks — the top 10 are Enterprise Oil, Scottish & Newcastle, Lasso, Cadbury Schweppes, Amstar, Lonrho, Allied-Lyons, Wellcome, Rank Hovis and MEPC. In at least seven the takeover influence has been a powerful factor.

The bottom 10 are Coats Viyella, British & Commonwealth, Storehouse, NMI, MCC, Courtaulds, Reuters 'B', Rolls-Royce, ICI and Marks & Spencer. There is a strong temptation here to indulge in some contrary investing.

Battle for Pillsbury swings mood against foreign bids

New Congress session may bring tougher takeover law

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The Pillsbury Company and Kraft Inc., both US takeover targets, are the latest cracks in the political dam which is likely to release a torrent of anti-takeover legislation in the new US Congress.

The management buy-out plan for RJR Nabisco, which has the air of a defensive move, will heighten the tension in a climate set by the presidential election campaign.

In newspaper advertisements this week, Pillsbury attempted to generate voter opposition to Grand Metropolitan's bid by depicting its popular "Doughboy" wearing boxing gloves and ready to do battle with "an opportunistic British liquor and gambling company."

Congressional officials say the new takeover laws, one by the new Congress, one by an unwanted British suitor

and the other by Philip Morris, a cash-rich US tobacco company, have re-ignited the debate over whether to place limits on such acquisitions.

An aide to Senator William Proxmire said: "Is it really in the public interest to allow good US companies, not the poorly managed ones, to be either broken up into pieces or forced to acquire a crippling high debt?"

Such positions in the present Congress were defeated by the Reagan Administration and the recovery from last year's crash. But the climate has changed, according to an aide to Representative Thomas Foley, the House majority leader, who said popular sentiment against takeovers of familiar US companies has surfaced strongly in House and Senate elections. Governor Michael Dukakis,

the Democratic presidential candidate, has struck a popular chord by attacking foreign takeovers. This has helped state and local candidates and will almost certainly translate into legislation plans.

The avalanche of big acquisitions in the final months of 1988 has rekindled the argument that America is being forced to sell its prized assets at bargain basement prices because of the relatively low dollar and its huge debt.

And although the leading corporate raiders have gone underground in recent months, the Philip Morris bid has forced politicians to reconsider whether these takeovers are in the economy's best interests.

Voters appear to support a Congressional solution. In one southern district, an impromptu poll this week

showed voters firmly against foreign takeovers and in favour of legislation.

In Minnesota, Pillsbury headquarters, the GrandMet bid has not aroused strong opposition because of difficulties the company has had in recent years. But Pillsbury's national campaign could generate strong opposition which may show later, even after a deal is consummated.

Meanwhile, public opposition appears to be against the takeover of Kraft which is regarded as a soundly-managed company put into a difficult position by a tobacco company whose image has suffered from the anti-cigarette campaign. Critics say Philip Morris will cripple Kraft — by forcing it into a bidding war or by asset sales to give shareholders enough value to stay independent.

Blenheim expands to Germany

By Our City Staff

Blenheim Exhibitions, the acquisitive trade fair organizer with a quote on the USM, is expanding into West Germany through the purchase of Heckmann GmbH Messen und Ausstellungen for DM 18 million (£5.7 million).

The company said yesterday: "Our main objective is to build a strong European company. We don't see ourselves as a British company. We are particularly delighted with the acquisition of Heckmann, which is the Mercedes Benz of German exhibitors."

Heckmann, established in 1928, is West Germany's oldest and largest independent trade exhibitor. One of its main events is the IKA, a culinary fair.

Blenheim purchased IFSSEC, which organizes fire and crime prevention fairs, last month and Padco, a Paris company, for £13.8 million in July.

BP moves into West coast with \$150m US purchase

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

BP's American subsidiary has moved into the lucrative US West coast market by acquiring a network of filling stations and a new refinery.

The deal will see Sohio Oil, the marketing arm of Standard Oil, BP's subsidiary, pay \$150 million (£85 million) and swap several facilities with Mobil. It gives BP a 79,000-barrel-a-day refinery in Ferndale, Washington, and a network of 244 filling stations down the West coast, but concentrated in the San Francisco Bay area.

It will also buy a 30 per cent stake in the West coast Olympic pipeline system and four storage terminals through which BP will continue to supply Mobil customers in the Washington, Oregon and northern California areas. BP has been searching for West coast outlets for some time and was recently believed to have been in the bidding for a Californian refinery which was eventually bought by

Ultramar, the British independent.

Mr James Ross, president and chief executive of BP America, said: "These acquisitions represent the accomplishment of a corporate objective to establish roots on the West coast on a

sound economic basis as an integrated oil company with a major brand presence."

In exchange for the West coast assets — the refinery is taking 85 per cent of its crude oil from the BP Alaskan oilfields — it is handing over 329 filling stations to Mobil in north east America and in Florida which operate under

the BP and Gibbs, Gas-o-Gol and Gulf labels. Mobil will also acquire a product terminal in Tampa, Florida.

BP will complete its acquisition by the end of the year and the Mobil acquisitions should be completed by the end of the second quarter of next year.

Mr John G. McDonald, vice-president of BP America, said: "In addition to the transactions' favourable refining and marketing economics it will also provide an important placement for Alaskan North Slope production."

Ultramar also announced yesterday that it is to spend Can\$85 million (£40.2 million) to expand and upgrade its refinery in Quebec. Work will start in the next few weeks and the refinery's capacity will be eventually be increased by ten per cent with production switching entirely to unleaded petrol. It will enable Ultramar to eliminate the need to bring in semi-refined products.



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From October 23, Dan-Air adds three new routes to its growing network of European and United Kingdom destinations. Paris. Nice. Manchester. All from Gatwick, London's most relaxed and convenient airport.

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With an executive lounge to relax in, specially-

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1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

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LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

[illegible]

THE  THE TIMES

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MARRIAGE OR
DEATH NOTICE IN
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Please telephone by 5.00p.m. for the
announcement to be published in the following
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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Lack of support

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began October 17. Dealings end October 28. Contango day October 31. Settlement day November 7.
 \$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at 4 pm. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (an) denotes Alpha Stocks.

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

From your Portfolio gold card check your right share price movements, on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches or better this figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly or accumulator prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Price	Change	%
1	TNT	Industrials S-Z	10.00	0.00	0.0
2	Bank of Wales	Bank/Discount	10.00	0.00	0.0
3	Bank of Scotland	Bank/Discount	10.00	0.00	0.0
4	Bank of Ireland	Bank/Discount	10.00	0.00	0.0
5	Bank of London	Bank/Discount	10.00	0.00	0.0
6	Bank of Cyprus	Bank/Discount	10.00	0.00	0.0
7	Bank of Greece	Bank/Discount	10.00	0.00	0.0
8	Bank of Spain	Bank/Discount	10.00	0.00	0.0
9	Bank of Portugal	Bank/Discount	10.00	0.00	0.0
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18	Bank of Czech Republic	Bank/Discount	10.00	0.00	0.0
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90	Bank of Mozambique	Bank/Discount	10.00	0.00	0.0
91	Bank of Angola	Bank/Discount	10.00	0.00	0.0
92	Bank of Namibia	Bank/Discount	10.00	0.00	0.0
93	Bank of Botswana	Bank/Discount	10.00	0.00	0.0
94	Bank of Lesotho	Bank/Discount	10.00	0.00	0.0
95	Bank of Swaziland	Bank/Discount	10.00	0.00	0.0
96	Bank of Mozambique	Bank/Discount	10.00	0.00	0.0
97	Bank of Angola	Bank/Discount	10.00	0.00	0.0
98	Bank of Namibia	Bank/Discount	10.00	0.00	0.0
99	Bank of Botswana	Bank/Discount	10.00	0.00	0.0
100	Bank of Lesotho	Bank/Discount	10.00	0.00	0.0

Please take into account any minus signs.

Week	Dividend	Share Price	Change	%
1	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
2	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
3	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
4	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
5	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
6	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
7	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
8	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
9	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
10	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
11	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
12	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
13	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
14	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
15	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
16	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
17	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
18	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
19	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
20	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
21	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
22	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
23	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
24	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
25	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
26	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
27	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
28	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
29	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
30	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
31	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
32	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
33	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
34	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
35	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
36	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
37	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
38	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
39	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
40	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
41	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
42	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
43	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
44	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
45	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
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53	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
54	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
55	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
56	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
57	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
58	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
59	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
60	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
61	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
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70	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
71	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
72	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
73	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
74	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
75	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
76	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
77	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
78	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
79	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
80	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
81	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
82	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
83	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
84	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
85	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
86	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
87	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
88	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
89	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
90	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
91	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
92	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
93	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
94	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
95	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
96	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
97	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
98	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
99	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0
100	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.0

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

FAMILY MONEY

Three ways to fight

Investors in Barlow Clowes have three avenues to pursue after the completion of the Le Quesne report.

They can pin their hopes on the Ombudsman Sir Anthony Barrowclough to investigate a test case and find the Department of Trade and Industry guilty of maladministration. They can take legal action against intermediaries who recommended investment in Barlow Clowes. And they can lobby larger intermediaries to face up to their moral responsibility and begin making *ex gratia* payments.

John Dyer, chairman of the Barlow Clowes Investors Group, said he expected the Ombudsman to take anything from six months to two years to complete his report. "We firmly believe that Sir Anthony wants to move in quickly," he said.

The Ombudsman has been presented with more than 100 cases by MPs. He will decide how to investigate in two or three weeks.

The Labour MP Alf Morris wrote to him when the Le Quesne inquiry report was published on Thursday urging him to take up a constituent's case.

Leslie Mullard, aged 75, and his wife invested their life savings of £65,000 with Barlow Clowes. Mr Morris asked the Ombudsman in June to take up the case, but he replied that he could not act until the inquiry was completed.

Anthony Gold, of solicitors Alexander Tatham, said investors should not contemplate legal action against the Department of Trade and Industry as that would inhibit the Ombudsman. But they could well proceed with actions against intermediaries.

Mr Dyer, when asked whether he regarded the Le



The investors' lawyer, Anthony Gold, outlines the next line of action for those who lost cash

Quesne report as a whitewash, replied: "It is not a whitewash. It paints a picture of a Government trying to avoid its responsibilities."

Lord Young of Gifford, the Trade and Industry Secretary, has said the liquidators of Barlow Clowes Gilt Managers were planning a pay-out of 75p in the £, and were hoping to pay some of it to the 7,000 investors before Christmas. The 11,000 investors

Disappointed at the refusals

with the off-shore Barlow Clowes International, he said, could expect 30p in the £.

Mr Gold said he was disappointed that many intermediaries had refused to say whether or not they had professional indemnity insurance, which might cover them against any claims, although it is quite normal for insurance companies to insure their customers to say nothing.

A Barlow Clowes compensation fund is to be set up by an intermediary who hopes to raise £15 million

from the financial services industry. Ronald Palmer, Portman Financial Services' managing director said: "We feel that the image of our industry has been affected by this unfortunate event."

His group will donate £5,000 to the fund and he hoped other financial organizations would follow suit.

"There has been plenty of talking," he said. "We thought something should be done. We thought of giving — but there was nothing to donate to."

Barlow Clowes funds. This allowed the liquidators to make a more accurate estimate of the pay-out. But this move from the Revenue brings a sting in its tail.

Investors will not be able to use any loss suffered on investments with Barlow Clowes to offset any capital gains.

This is because the Revenue has decided the funds were not unit trusts. And this means the funds do not have to pay tax — but the investors do.

Revenue move has a sting in the tail

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This is because the Revenue has decided the funds were not unit trusts. And this means the funds do not have to pay tax — but the investors do.

Vivien Goldsmith

Losers who got their cash

Two investors who lost their savings after the collapse of a Torquay investment firm pursued their case all the way to the Ombudsman.

This is a story with a familiar ring. And in 1986, the Ombudsman invited the Department of Trade and Industry to reimburse, with interest, a group of investors who had lost their savings when the company had collapsed. And this the department did.

David Langford had been licensed by the department to deal in investments. Many of his clients were financially unsophisticated. Many invested in local authority bonds, believing this to be a way of doing little more than keep pace with inflation. These were not yuppie speculators, but sober, retired working people looking for a secure place for their limited capital. All his clients lost their money, which for some, amounted to their life savings.

Two clients complained to the department over the way it

had failed to supervise the company's activities. Perhaps not surprisingly, the department refused to accept responsibility. It expressed regret for both clients' predicament but pointed out that it was "no light matter to close down a business on the basis of 'unproven' doubts and suspicions."

Undeterred, the two men complained to their MPs, who took the matter up with the Ombudsman. He conducted an inquiry into the company's affairs and, in particular, the way in which the department had exercised its regulatory responsibilities.

He discovered that the department had known all along that the company had misappropriated money belonging to one of its clients to pay an outstanding creditor in another company, which had been officially wound up in 1981. It had known that Mr Langford had admitted failing to maintain company records and that one of his companies

owed substantial sums to clients, for which it was unable to account.

This information had been passed from the Official Receiver's Department to the Companies Investigation Branch in 1981, yet it had done nothing with it, as the evidence was passed "in confidence". Instead, it renewed Mr Langford's licence, even though the last annual accounts filed by the company were more than two years out of date.

The department's repeated requests for information went largely unanswered, yet Mr Langford had his licence renewed again in April 1982, though he had still not filed any accounts at Companies House.

The Ombudsman reviewed the actions of the various departments and found some behaviour "surprising" and other actions "extraordinary". He criticized the department for its "poor performance and apparent lack of regard for the

protection of public interest". He found other failings that "merited criticism" and considered the department's overall handling ineffective and ill-judged.

His most damning finding was that in failing to act, the department had shown "a lamentable lack of concern for the interests of those members of the public who had a right to assume that the department's licensing system offered them a reasonable measure of protection".

The Ombudsman invited the department to reimburse the losers with interest as a result of his findings. The department, however, continues to maintain that the reimbursement of the investors' money in this case is not a precedent.

Rowan Bosworth-Davies

The author's book, *Fraud In The City — Too Good To Be True*, will be published next week by Penguin.

MORTGAGE RATE

FROZEN

UNTIL JANUARY 1989

11.25%

=

(11.9%)

PREMIER mortgage

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ACTING AS AGENTS FOR UNITED MORTGAGES CORPORATION PLC

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 21).

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	+6	+5	+4	+5	+2		
2	+7	+6	+5	+7	+5		
3	+9	+5	+5	+5	+5		
4	+6	+6	+3	+7	+3		
5	+6	+5	+4	+4	+2		
6	+5	+7	+2	+5	+3		
7	+7	+6	+5	+7	+5		
8	+7	+4	+5	+5	+5		
9	+7	+7	+6	+8	+5		
10	+8	+4	+4	+4	+2		
11	+8	+3	+5	+4	+4		
12	+6	+5	+3	+5	+3		
13	+4	+7	+2	+5	+3		
14	+7	+5	+5	+5	+4		
15	+7	+8	+6	+7	+5		
16	+8	+8	+1	+7	+2		
17	+6	+6	+3	+4	+3		
18	+5	+3	+7	+6	+3		
19	+9	+5	+5	+6	+9		
20	+8	+5	+4	+7	+4		
21	+7	+5	+5	+4	+2		
22	+8	+7	+1	+5	+4		
23	+8	+7	+4	+6	+4		
24	+7	+6	+5	+5	+2		
25	+4	+8	+2	+6	+2		
26	+8	+4	+6	+4	+4		
27	+8	+6	+5	+3	+1		
28	+8	+6	+3	+7	+6		
29	+8	+4	+5	+4	+4		
30	+5	+7	+2	+5	+3		
31	+8	+6	+6	+6	+4		
32	+7	+4	+5	+5	+3		
33	+5	+5	+2	+5	+2		
34	+7	+4	+5	+4	+1		
35	+7	+6	+6	+8	+5		
36	+4	+8	+3	+4	+3		
37	+4	+9	+3	+5	+8		
38	+7	+8	+1	+6	+4		
39	+8	+4	+4	+3	+3		
40	+5	+8	+3	+7	+4		
41	+8	+4	+3	+4	+2		
42	+8	+5	+5	+7	+6		
43	+8	+5	+2	+5	+4		
44	+8	+4	+7	+6	+5		

MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE OF UNIT TRUST WITH THREE FUNDS FROM M&G.

With over 1,200 unit trusts available and more being launched each month, how do you know which to choose?

In reality there are only three basic types of unit trust. M&G has an outstandingly successful example of each:

Recovery Fund for capital growth.

Dividend Fund for increasing income.

Second General Fund for a balance between income and growth.

It would be hard to find three funds with more convincing long term records. One of them is likely to be the right choice for you.

Past performance cannot be a guarantee for the future.

The price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

Growth RECOVERY FUND

M&G Recovery Fund is probably the most successful unit trust ever launched and the table below shows just how well it has achieved its aim of capital growth. The Fund buys the shares of companies which have fallen on hard times. Losses must be expected when a company fails to recover but the effect of a turnaround can be dramatic.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G RECOVERY	FT 100 INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
23 May '89	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000
1970	1,176	557	1,060
1975	2,640	1,112	1,486
1980	12,556	1,729	2,154
1985	27,080	4,247	3,240
19 OCT '88	58,552	7,153	3,970*

NOTES: All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). M&G Recovery Fund on 19th October 1988 would have grown to £57,754 by 19th October 1988 with net income reinvested. *Estimated.

FURTHER INFORMATION: On 19th October 1988 offers prices and estimated gross current yields were:

	Income	Accumulation	Yield	Spread
Recovery	577-7p	781-1p	3-60%	5-66%
Dividend	576-6p	1819-3p	5-08%	5-49%
SECOND	965-2p	2048-2p	3-31%	5-10%

The prices are quoted as at 9.15 am on business days. Prices and yields appear daily in the Financial Times. The spread is the difference between the offered price (at which you buy units) and the bid price (at which you sell). We have a discretion to vary the pricing basis of the units and also the spread within a range, calculated in accordance with statutory regulations. An initial charge of 5% is included in the offered price. An annual charge of up to 1% of each fund's value — currently 1% for Recovery and Second General and 1% for Dividend — plus VAT is deducted from gross income. Income for Accumulation units is reinvested to increase their value and for Income units it is distributed net of basic rate tax on the following dates:

	Recovery	Dividend	SECOND
Distributions	20 Feb, 20 Aug, 20 Jan, 20 May, 20 Sep, 20 Dec	15 Jan, 15 May, 15 Sep, 15 Dec	15 Jan, 15 May, 15 Sep, 15 Dec

Applications required by 23 Dec '88, 18 Nov '88, 9 Oct '88 for next distribution on 20 Feb '89, 15 Jan '89, 15 Sep '89, 15 Dec '89. Capital gains tax 1988/89: An individual's first £5,000 of realised capital gains will be exempt from tax. Gains in excess of £5,000 will be added to the individual's other income and taxed at the rates of tax applicable. Gains arising before 31st March 1982 are not subject to capital gains tax and gains since 31st March 1982 are subject to indexation relief. You can buy or sell units on any business day. Contracts for purchase or sale will be due for settlement by the date shown on the contract note. The trustee for Dividend and Recovery is Barclays Bank Trust Co. Limited and for SECOND is Lloyds Bank Plc. The Funds are all wider range investments and are authorised under the Financial Services Act 1986.

Income DIVIDEND FUND

If you need income which will grow over the years M&G Dividend Fund could be your ideal investment. The Fund invests in a wide range of ordinary shares and aims to provide above average and increasing income from higher yielding shares.

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE. £2,000 invested in income units at the launch of M&G Dividend Fund on 5th May 1964, compared with a similar investment in a Building Society.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY
5 May '64	—	—	£1,000	£1,000
1965	£40	£38	1,020	1,000
1970	46	49	1,076	1,000
1975	83	72	1,630	1,000
1980	166	103	2,428	1,000
1985	228	87	6,516	1,000
19 OCT '88	368	64*	10,904	1,000

NOTES: All income figures shown are net of basic rate tax. The Building Society income figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). M&G Dividend Fund on 19th October 1988 would have produced an average of £21.95 per unit; on 19th October 1988 would have produced an average of £21.95 per unit; on 19th October 1988 would have produced an average of £21.95 per unit.

Balanced SECOND GENERAL

M&G Second General Trust Fund aims for consistent growth of both capital and income and has a 32-year performance record which is second to none. It has a wide spread of shares mainly in British companies and expected yield in line with the F.T. Actuaries All Share Index.

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE. Value of £1,000 invested at the launch of M&G Second General on 5th June 1956, with net income reinvested.

Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G SECOND	FT 100 INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
5 June '56	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000
1960	1,952	2,008	1,167
1965	3,132	2,623	1,397
1970	4,548	3,054	1,742
1975	7,994	3,992	2,368
1980	19,540	6,160	3,476
1985	54,600	17,624	5,229
19 OCT '88	95,100	25,481	6,406*

NOTES: All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). M&G Second General on 19th October 1988 would have grown to £95,100 by 19th October 1988 with net income reinvested. *Estimated.

Scheme Particulars will be sent with your contract note. However, if you would like the Scheme Particulars before investing, or the latest fund reports, you can obtain them free of charge from: M&G Securities Limited, M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1PB. Tel: (0245) 256266.

INVESTMENT FROM £1,000

By M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, M&G HOUSE, VICTORIA ROAD, CHELMSFORD CM1 1PB. Please invest the sum(s) indicated below in the Fund(s) of my choice (minimum investment in each Fund: £1,000) in ACCUMULATION/INCOME units (delete as applicable) or Accumulation units will be issued for Recovery and SECOND and Income units will be issued for Dividend) at the price ruling on receipt of this application. DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY.

IS FULL FUNDATION(S) (tick/initials)	RECOVERY (M&G £1,000)	£	-00
DIVIDEND (M&G £1,000)	£	-00	
SECOND (M&G £1,000)	£	-00	

A contract note will be sent to you stating exactly how much you own and the settlement date. Your certificate will follow shortly. In entering into the contract with M&G you will not have any right to cancel the contract under the Financial Services (Cancellation) Rules 1988.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

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THE M&G GROUP

TAKE THE WORRY OUT OF WHEN TO INVEST WITH M&G'S UNIT TRUST SAVINGS PLAN

If you had chosen fifteen years ago to save £25 a month in a building society, and had left the interest to accumulate, by 1st October 1988 your total outlay of £4,500 would have built up to £8,565. On the other hand, if you had chosen to save the same amount each month in M&G SECOND GENERAL Trust Fund, you would have built up an investment worth £25,542, an extra £16,977.

You can start an M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan with as little as £25. By saving a regular amount you take the worry out of when to invest and can make decisions in the stockmarket work to your advantage because more units are bought when their price is low than when it is high.

Unit trusts are an excellent method of investing in the various stockmarkets of the world, and are ideal for regular investment over the longer term. They are not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

FROM £25 A MONTH

PERFORMANCE FIGURES TO 1 OCT 1988

	£25 A MONTH	15 YEARS ago (1 Oct 1973)	15 YEARS ago (1 Oct 1973)
Amount paid in	1,500	3,000	4,500
M&G Recovery	2,808	10,518	40,466
M&G Dividend	2,506	10,423	30,059
M&G SECOND	2,293	8,966	25,542
Building Society	1,819	4,594	8,565

All performance figures include income reinvested net of basic rate tax. The figures for the M&G Funds are all realisation values. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). You should remember that past performance is no guarantee for the future.

THE M&G GROUP

Your Savings Plan subscriptions go into Accumulation units of the Fund you choose at the price ruling on receipt of payment and net income is automatically reinvested. All the Funds are wider range investments and are authorised under the Financial Services Act 1986. Detailed information on Recovery, Dividend and SECOND General is given above. The Rules of the Plan, Scheme Particulars, and the latest annual and half-yearly reports on these Funds can be obtained, free of charge, from M&G's Customer Services Department at the address below. The only charges are those you normally pay with unit trusts — 5% included in the initial price of units and up to 1% annually for management. There are no extra charges for this Savings Plan.

You can vary the amount you pay and you are free to cash in your accumulated investment, or part of it, at any time without penalty.

The securities in a unit trust are held in safe custody by the Trustee (one of the major banks). You can follow the progress of your plan by looking up the price of units and the current yield in the Financial Times or other leading newspapers. You buy units at the 'offer' price and sell at the 'bid' price.

SAVINGS PLANS FOR CHILDREN

The minimum age for the Unit Trust Savings Plan is 14, but accounts for younger children can be opened in the name of an adult and designated with the child's full name.

NO EXTRA CHARGES

TO: M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, M&G HOUSE, VICTORIA ROAD, CHELMSFORD CM1 1PB.

I wish to subscribe £.00 (with £25)

each month to the M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan

and I enclose a cheque (made payable to M&G Securities Limited) for my first subscription of

£.00 (you may wish to start your plan with a lump sum).

POST CODE: JCDQ

BANKERS ORDER DO NOT DETACH FROM APPLICATION FORM

NAME: _____

YOUR DATE: _____ PERSONAL BANK: _____

IT'S TAX FREE

TAXAXE, THE NEW WAY TO SAVE.

The new deal for regular savers

MIM Britannia has developed a new, tax free, monthly savings scheme. It's called Taxaxe and it could provide you with a really large sum of money to spend and enjoy.

Most savings schemes are subject to tax, which reduces the benefit to you, but Taxaxe offers you some major advantages:-

- Totally tax free profits
- No need to tell the taxman
- Access to your money at any time
- Proven growth potential

Taxaxe uses the tax free advantages of a Personal Equity Plan (PEP) managed by MIM Limited to invest directly into the MIM Britannia Income and Growth Trust, a unit trust with a long history of successful growth. £40 per month invested in our Income and Growth Trust over the past 15 years has grown to an impressive £33,720*.

However, if Taxaxe had been

available then, its tax free benefits would have increased this figure to £42,152*. That's an extra profit of £8,432 or 25%. Of course past performance is no guarantee of future success as, unit trust prices can fluctuate and investors may not get back the amount they have invested.

Taxaxe couldn't be simpler and there aren't masses of forms to fill in. Unlike other savings schemes the taxman won't even require any information from you on your annual tax return.

It's simple to save

Send off now for details of how your savings can grow absolutely tax free. You can invest between £25 a month (minimum) and £45 a month (maximum). But a husband and wife can each take out a plan, thus doubling the tax benefits.

Either call us free on 0800 010 333, 9.00am to 6.00pm weekdays, 9.00am to 1.00pm weekends, or consult your investment adviser or complete the coupon below.



MIM BRITANNIA

TO: MIM LIMITED, FREEPOST, 11 DEVONSHIRE SQUARE, LONDON EC2B 2TT.
Please send me further details of Taxaxe.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

*Offer to bid, income re-invested as at 19/88. MIM Limited is a member of IMRO.

FAMILY MONEY

LETTERS

How do I underpay?

Since I retired at the age of 65, I have been concerned at how I continue to get underpaid amounts on my final tax return.

My pensions are PAYE, and dealt with by the Paymaster-General's office at Crawley. I have no question about that, but on my annual form for the first time, the calculations of my other income are detailed, and I am now trying to understand how my income from unit trusts and equities are calculated and am surprised to see that my net income and tax credit are added together, so increasing my total income over the point of allowance. The final amount is then again taxed at 66.6 per cent.

I find it odd that tax credits mean anything by this inclusion in the total income. I consider that I'm paying the same deductions twice and this is where the underpaid factor arises.

Would you be good enough to explain this apparent anomaly as I feel sure it will be of great interest to retired people who qualify for age allowance.

In a reply to a letter of mine, Mr Norman Lamont claims that the top tax rate is 41.67 per cent but I can't see that from the above "double" charging.

W.R. MURRAY, Worthing, Sussex.

You have evidently fallen into what is called the "age allowance trap", a case of continuing irritation to pensioners such as yourself.

You have not given any details of your income, so I have made a number of assumptions in the following example, which I hope will illustrate how the calculation should proceed. For this purpose I have used 1977-78 rates and allowances.

If your only source of income was a Civil Service pension of £9,500, you would be entitled to the full age allowance and your tax would be calculated as follows:

Pension £9,500
Age allowance (single person) £4,675
Taxable income £4,825
Tax at 27% £1,302.75

This is the tax that would be applied to your pension by the Paymaster-General. If you also have income from unit trusts and equities the computation rules require that you include this plus the corresponding tax credits (which are really basic-rate tax withheld at source) in your income for the purposes of determining the level of age allowance and your overall tax liability. You will then get a set-off against that liability for those tax credits. In the example, if your

income from unit trusts etc amounts to £730 net, the calculation proceeds as follows:

Pension £9,500
Dividends (net) £730
Add tax credits £270
Sub-total £10,500
Age allowance £4,675
Less abatement (£10,500 - £9,500) x 2/3 £467
That is £4,208
Taxable income £6,292
Tax at 27% £1,698.84
Less tax already deducted or credited Pension £1,302.75
Tax credits on dividends etc £270
Total £1,572.75
Underpayment £126.09

Thus, I am afraid that the total tax on your dividends is £396.09, an effective rate of 39.61 per cent. If the tax inspector's calculation differs markedly in its results from this then you should take up the matter with him.

Show me the routes

I've just read with great interest your revealing article on "Blights without the rights" in Family Money. As I'm presently contemplating moving to East Sussex-West Kent, I'd very much like to know exactly where the four possible rail routes run. I wonder whether you would kind enough to tell me from whom I could get the detailed information.

ANGELA THORPE, St James Road, Sutton, Surrey.

The contact is Nicholas Alexander or Malcolm Southgate, at British Rail General Offices, Waterloo Street, London SE1 8SE.

Both these repairs would have set me back at least £100.

ELISABETH A. OTTER, Kemerton, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire.

Readers' letters for publication are welcomed but *The Times* regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. Published replies marked with a triangle-type symbol are by Bill Packer, tax partner at accountants Touche Ross, in association with *The Times*. However, no legal responsibility can be accepted for any advice or statements in these columns. Independent professional advice should be sought.

The cases that just flew away

Mr Cave (Letters, Family Money, October 8) was lucky — he had a reunion with his luggage, however belated!

I have not seen my luggage since I checked it in at a BA desk in Heathrow's Terminal 1 en route to Jersey at the end of May.

Of course, baggage goes astray and other disasters occur but surely one of the ways any business from a snack bar to an airline should be judged is to assess how the unexpected is handled. To an airline lost baggage isn't uncommon but in my case after four months and four letters containing a list of contents, the matter is still unresolved. To my mind as a customer this is unprofessional and totally unacceptable.

BA has certainly got better in the last few years but in my experience there is no room



for complacency and much room for improvement. Currently I am not flying with BA and won't do so until I get some sort of satisfaction. Luckily, there are plenty of other airlines who seem quite happy to have my custom but I shall have a problem if one of my clients specifies that I fly Concord!

PETER CLARKE, Daves Road, London SW6.

The PEPs way into savings

A tax-free unit trust savings scheme, Taxaxe, is being launched this weekend by MIM Britannia. It is really an ordinary PEP, but this scheme is being sold as a "unit trust savings scheme which beats all other savings schemes". It is all a question of marketing.

MIM has even suggested that its PEP could underpin a mortgage. But, initially, this is likely to come only through the in-house company, National Employers Life, which has its own mortgage provider, City & Commercial.

No outsiders have yet accepted the scheme as the basis for repaying a mortgage.

Taxaxe will pump money into MIM Britannia's Income & Growth Fund, which usually manages to put in an above average performance among UK general funds.

The last Budget increased the amount that can be invested in a unit trust savings scheme, via a PEP, from £35 a month to £45. This means a married couple may invest £90 a month between them, which is enough to add up to a sizeable chunk over a prolonged period.

An initial unit trust contribution of £62.47 a month would be enough to repay a £50,000 loan over 25 years,

assuming a growth rate of 7.5 per cent, calculates Keith Crowley, marketing director of MIM Britannia. A growth rate of 10 per cent would bring down monthly payments to £42.34 a month.

Monthly interest has to be paid on top of this sum, which generates a cash pot to repay the mortgage at the end of the term.

"I am hopeful that Taxaxe can introduce the tax-free benefits of a PEP to a much wider audience than has so far been achieved," said Mr Crowley.

Vivien Goldsmith

MERCURY RECOVERY FUND

1% EXTRA UNITS

Top Performing UK Growth Fund since launch in 1981 to 1.10.88*

Value on 1.10.88 of £1,000 invested on:	1.10.83	1.4.81
	(5 years)	(Fund Launch)
MERCURY RECOVERY FUND*	£3,420	£6,683
Average UK Growth Trust*	£2,406	£3,543
Building Society Higher Rate Account*	£1,439	£1,805
Retail Price Index	£1,259	£1,521

*Offer to bid prices, net income reinvested; +1.1% above Building Society Ordinary Share Rate. Source: MICROPAL.

There are many unit trusts to choose from. In changing market circumstances, some will do well one year, some the next.

Few have an investment philosophy, allied to technique, which has proved itself over a considerable period of time and a variety of stockmarket conditions.

Mercury Recovery Fund aims for long-term capital growth through a vigorous and consistent application of fundamental principles, investing in mainly UK companies whose shares offer recovery or growth prospects. Income is a secondary consideration.

So successful have these principles proved that Mercury Recovery Fund has out-performed not only all other 'recovery' funds, but all UK growth funds over the period from its launch on 1st April, 1981 to 1st October, 1988. Source: MICROPAL.

In current stockmarket conditions, where overall uncertainty may mask the excellent long-term prospects for individual companies, Mercury Recovery Fund is more than ever relevant for investors seeking long-term growth.

The price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future and unit trusts should be regarded as long-term investments.

1% EXTRA UNITS IF YOU INVEST £1000 OR MORE
If you invest £1000 or more by 31st October, 1988 we will add 1% extra units to your investment.

BUILD CAPITAL FROM £35 A MONTH
If you wish to build capital, the Mercury Savings Plan is an easy way to invest in Mercury Recovery Fund for as little as £35 a month. One of the advantages of saving regularly is that it avoids the problem of deciding when to invest and you can build up a substantial capital sum surprisingly quickly. After 24 consecutive monthly payments we will allocate 1 per cent. extra units to each subsequent monthly payment, rising to 2 per cent. after 48 consecutive monthly payments. There is no extra charge for starting a Plan.

Mercury Fund Managers Ltd., Registered Address: 33 King William Street, London EC4R 9AS. Tel: 01-290 2800. Reg. in England No. 1102517. Member of Unit Trust Association (MUR) and LAUTRO.



To: Mercury Fund Managers Ltd., FREEPOST, London EC4R 9AS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Units in Mercury Recovery Fund will be allocated to all postal applicants at the offer price next calculated (in accordance with S.I. 280 of 1988) following receipt of the order. Valuations are based on UK share prices taken at 10.00 a.m. You may buy or sell units on any business day between 9.00 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. Contract notes for purchases of units will normally be issued on the business day following the day on which the purchase price is determined. Unit certificates will normally be sent within 21 days of the Managers receiving payment and full registration details.

Units may be sold back to the Managers at any time by telephone or in writing. A cheque for repurchase proceeds will normally be issued within four working days of receipt by the Managers of the unit certificate, with the reverse 5.25 completed and signed.

The most recent offer (buying) and bid (selling) prices of units and gross estimated annual yield are published daily in the Financial Times and other leading newspapers.

On 1st October, 1988 the offer price for Accumulation units was 313.7p and for Distribution units was 282.2p. The estimated gross annual yield was 3.04 per cent. The maximum permitted difference on that day between offer and bid price was 8.4 per cent, although the quoted difference was 6.0 per cent. An initial charge of 5 per cent. is included in the offer price and an annual charge of currently 1 per cent. (rising to 1½ per cent. from 1st November, 1989), plus VAT, of the value of the Fund is deducted, normally from the Fund's income. On giving at least 3 months' written notice, the Managers may increase the initial charge to 5½ per cent. Dividends are paid net of basic-rate tax (or reinvested net in the case of Accumulation units to increase their value). Higher-rate taxpayers may have a liability to tax at their higher rate. Any disposal of units may be subject to Capital Gains Tax. The CGT exemption for 1988/89 is £5,000.

The Fund may write or purchase Traded Call Options and purchase Traded Put Options provided they relate to securities which are authorised investments for the Fund. In addition, it may invest in the USM in the UK.

Commission is payable in accordance with LAUTRO rules. Rates are available on request from the Managers or from LAUTRO Ltd. on 01-379 0444.

The right to cancel contracts under the Financial Services (Cancellation) Rules 1988 will normally be exercised in the case of investments made direct with the Managers by individuals and in certain other cases.

Mercury Recovery Fund is an authorised securities scheme under the Financial Services Act 1986 and a "long-term" investment under the Trustee Investments Act, 1961. The Trustee is The Royal Bank of Scotland plc (member of RABO and ABFC).

ACT BEFORE 31 OCT. 88

1% EXTRA UNITS FOR INVESTMENT FROM £1000

I/We wish to invest £ (min. £1000) in ACCUMULATION/DISTRIBUTION units (please delete as appropriate or Accumulation units will be allocated) of Mercury Recovery Fund at the offer price next calculated following receipt of this application and a cheque made payable to Mercury Fund Managers Ltd. is enclosed. All applications for £1,000 or more received by 31st October 1988 will be given an extra 1 per cent. allocation of units.

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Title) _____

Full Forename(s) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

I am/We are over 18. (Particulars and signatures of any joint applicants should be attached).

Signature _____

Date _____

If YOU HAVE A FINANCIAL ADVISER, YOU SHOULD CONSULT HIM BEFORE INVESTING.

Full Scheme Particulars and Managers' Reports are available on request from the Managers.

MONTHLY SAVINGS PLAN FROM £35

I/We wish to invest £ (min. £35) each month in Accumulation units of Mercury Recovery Fund. (Send no money now. Full terms and conditions and a Direct Debit Mandate will be sent with our acknowledgement. Your first payment will be invested on the 1st day of the month next following receipt by the Managers of your completed Direct Debit.)

YOU OWE IT TO YOURSELF.

Spend a little time now — find out how you can secure a retirement income you can look forward to.

Retirement may seem a long way off. But, if you care about yourself and the future, now's the time to think about it. A few minutes now could mean the difference when you retire between having enough money to live on, and having the money to live life to the full. After all, when you don't earn a living any more, you don't want your quality of life to suffer.

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*Tax concessions are at your highest because tax rates have not been changed by the government at this time in the future.



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And you certainly owe that to yourself.

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9.30-4.30 7 DAYS A WEEK

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Please tell me more about a Save & Prosper Personal Retirement Account.

My name is _____

My address is _____

My home Tel. (STD code) _____

My date of birth is _____

My current salary is £ _____

The amount I wish to contribute is £ _____

One complete service department may be able to help if you're a Member of DMO and Lams.

I am: Self-employed ☐

Employed and in a company pension scheme ☐

Employed but with no pension scheme ☐

SAVE & PROSPER
THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

FAMILY MONEY

Hugh Thompson reports on the problems of a deed of family arrangement

Too late for tax relief

Paul Webster is not a happy man. Not only does he face a huge tax bill on his recently deceased mother's estate but the problems relating to his father's estate will not go away either, and he died more than 10 years ago.

When Kenneth Webster, who had built up a successful printing business in Slough, Berkshire, died in 1977 it was decided on the advice of family brokers in conjunction with the family's accountants to make the provisions of his will more tax-efficient by a deed of family arrangement.

This meant that within two years of Kenneth's death Paul's mother had to give away some of what she had inherited from Kenneth.

By doing so and entering into a deed of family arrangement gifts by her to the children could be treated for tax purposes as if they had been gifts by Kenneth under his original will.

This can have significant tax advantages from the Inheritance Tax and Capital Gains Tax points of view. But the Inland Revenue has to be told within six months of the deed having been executed.

Although the Webster deed was signed and sealed in January 1979 the family accountants did not make an election for tax relief until April 1982.

The Inland Revenue Policy Division later wrote to Paul Webster: "As you know, there is a special capital gains relief which is available on disposals of such interests within two years after the deceased's death. The relief is subject to an election which must be made within six months of the disposal."

"Although the accountants did at one stage indicate to the inspector that an election for relief was in prospect, it was not forthcoming and eventually on April 23, 1982, the

Making an election is automatic

inspector was asked whether a late election would be acceptable. After due consideration the Board of Inland Revenue decided not to exercise their discretion to extend the time limit."

Mr Webster maintains this cost him £24,000 in extra tax. He says: "Making an election to the Revenue after a deed of family arrangement is automatic. My accountants just forgot. They have never replied to my letters, despite



The man who lost: Paul Webster says decision cost £24,000

having acted for the family for 25 years. They didn't even apologise. I have thought of suing but it's an expensive business, the law is one big IF, and there is no guaranteed certainty that I would win."

The one-time Webster family accountants said: "This all happened a long time ago and the file has been taken from us as we no longer act for Mr Webster."

"If my memory serves me correctly the reason there was a delay in making the election came about because Mr Webster changed solicitors in the middle of handling his father's estate and between the new solicitors, the brokers and us there was some confusion about who was meant to be doing what."

"Mr Webster has been making these allegations for some time and we have been investigated both by the Institute of Chartered Accountants and the local fraud squad. Neither found that this firm had anything to answer. The reason that I, have

stopped answering Mr Webster's letters is that they have become so obnoxious that I have told him it is impossible for me to reply."

However difficult the client, it seems very strange that a bevy of professional advisers failed to make what is the usually automatic election to the Revenue after the deed of family arrangement had been drawn up.

Paul Webster dismisses the investigations of the ICA. "They were not interested in whether there had been negligence, only whether professional etiquette had been observed. Despite having cost me an awful lot of money my ex-accountant does not seem to care less."

"It just highlights that you cannot expect professionals to do the simplest tasks."

"I am now using a firm of London accountants." However, the accountant maintains: "I have sat down and explained to Mr Webster at great length what has happened. As for the tax, it may

be the non-election just brought forward a liability. Mr Webster does tend to get a little confused. He's a bit of an oddball."

Anne-Marie Piper, of the leading City firm of solicitors Richards Butler, comments: "Exceptional circumstances apart, there is no substitute for a properly drafted will."

"However, probate practitioners should, as a matter of course, consider the scope for a deed of family arrangement, which is not limited to cases where the deceased left a will. Deeds of family arrangement are commonly used to improve poorly drafted wills, to introduce new beneficiaries or to increase the shares of existing beneficiaries; and to save tax."

"The most common example of their use for tax savings is in the case of one party of the marriage dying and leaving everything to the other. No Inheritance Tax (IHT) will be payable on death because of the inter-spouse exemption. But if there are children or grandchildren no use will have been made of the IHT 'nil rate band', currently £110,000."

"If the survivor can afford to redirect some of the estate to the children the IHT on the survivor's death will be reduced."

"Deeds of family arrangement should be used with care. Whilst the Revenue takes a reasonable approach to the formalities it is important to remember that the deed be made within two years of the death and, as we have seen, election to the Revenue must be made within six months of the deed."

A word of caution: Deeds can have consequences for other taxes, notably Capital Gains Tax and income tax and it is important to avoid such traps as leaving the surviving spouse liable to tax on income

A benefit for 'the black sheep'

from property which she may have given away.

One of the more charming uses to which these deeds are put is when a parent deliberately cuts out one of his children of the estate but the benefiting children, thinking this to be unfair, agree to write the black sheep back into the estate.

Whatever the problems, the Revenue reports: "These deeds are an increasingly popular arrangement."

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US	American (7.12.79)	2nd (30)	10th (55)
EUROPE	European (04.11.85)	1st (48)	-
	European Income (07.02.87)	4th (88)	-
JAPAN	Japan (13.08.81)	1st (15)	6th (25)
	Japan Special Situations (14.09.86)	3rd (34)	-

Source: Planned Savings, net income reinvested. Figures to 1.10.88.
Note: Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future returns. Moreover the value of units in a trust may fluctuate and is not guaranteed.

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RATE MAY VARY AFTER 2 YEARS. WRITTEN DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.
SECURITY WILL BE REQUIRED ON THE LOAN. THE APR SHOWN IS TYPICAL OF AN ENDOWMENT LOAN OVER 25 YEARS.
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TYPICAL MONTHLY ENDOWMENT PREMIUM \$68.00. THERE IS A 3 MONTH INTEREST PENALTY ON MORTGAGES REDHEMED IN THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF THE LOAN.
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FAMILY MONEY

A house full of cash

We all know what has happened to property prices in recent years and you are a lucky person if you can escape from a dinner party or the pub bar without discussing the value of your neighbours' houses.

However, if those chattering have no intention of trading down or moving into rented accommodation, the extra value of their property translates into nothing more than higher insurance payments — unless they take one of the two possible routes to release some of the extra valuation.

One is remortgaging, the other is the second mortgage, or equity release scheme. But neither has attracted favourable publicity.

Tabloid newspapers and local free sheets are full of advertisements from credit and mortgage brokers, exhort-

ing you to the best advice — or indeed any advice at all.

However, if the repayment package includes an endowment policy or a pension plan, that part of the deal is covered by the investor protection legislation.

However, remortgaging and equity release have their place — provided borrowers understand the risks. Most large banks and building societies now offer these types of service, often in tandem with an insurance company, and, unlike some of the fringe brokers, they apply strict criteria.

"We don't want people to overstretch themselves by taking on huge debts," says John Reardon, at Sun Life of Canada. "Just because they have a house now worth £150,000 with a £10,000 mortgage, they cannot have £140,000."

School fees can be included

Sir Gordon Borrie, director-general of the Office of Fair Trading, has expressed his concern about these advertisements on many occasions. Their wording is now being studied by the Department of Trade and Industry, which is working on the formulation of a "wealth warning".

Loans do not come under the terms of the Financial Services Act, so there is no legal requirement for any broker or loan provider to give

Remortgaging can increase tax

"We will not lend more than 80 per cent of the valuation, less any existing mortgage — or more than 70 per cent on properties worth over £200,000."

The lending multiple is also conservative — no more than three times basic income plus once the income of a spouse, or 2.5 times the joint income. In both cases the multiple has to include the first mortgage.

Remortgaging involves paying back the original loan and starting again for a higher sum, as well as realizing money tied up in the property. Remortgaging is also used by those who leave a job that had a subsidized mortgage package.

There has to be a valuation

of the property and there will also be legal costs, including any Land Registry fees.

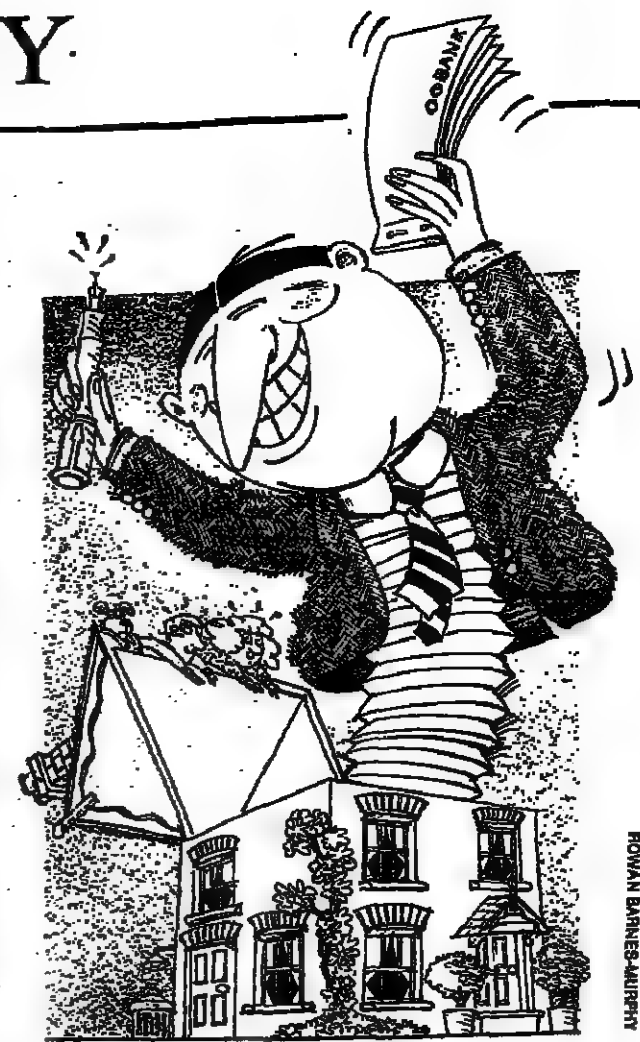
The Abbey National Building Society says that valuing a property costing £110,000 costs £108, while legal fees will take around £250. The new lender has a secured first charge against the property and the loan is cheaper than a second mortgage or equity release where lenders have to pay off the first mortgage if they foreclose.

However, as Graham Smart-Hill, of the Hampshire-based Forthill Investments company, points out, remortgaging can bring a higher tax bill. "You cannot claim tax relief on more than your original loan and remortgaging takes you out of Miras and puts you on to a gross profile mortgage where tax relief comes through your tax code. It can be anything from a few months to two years before your tax relief starts to flow again."

"Worse than that, if part of your tax relief came from a home improvement loan or if the mortgage was shared by two or more unmarried people, you will now lose that extra relief."

The second mortgage, or equity release plan, avoids tax problems, although there are higher interest rates. Abbey National charges on remortgages went up yesterday. For sums of less than £60,000 it charges 12.75 per cent, up 1.25 percentage points, and 12.25 per cent, up from 11 per cent, for larger sums.

The Sun Life of Canada equity release scheme, known as Capital and Drawdown, which is organized with the Bank of Scotland, charges 2.5 percentage points above the bank's



ROBIN BARNES/AGENCY

base rate to give a rate of 14.5 per cent at present.

This scheme has an arrangement fee of £200 and is effectively a loan. You have a cheque book to draw cash as you need it and you pay interest only on the outstanding loan.

Provincial Bank also offers an equity release scheme, together with Economic Insurance, based on the three-month Libor rates at the end of every quarter, plus 3 percentage points.

Repaying a mortgage or second mortgage is much the same as paying off the original mortgage. You have a choice of endowment, pension-link-

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Tony Levene

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Favoured students

The high street banks have become so eager to attract teenage customers that branches are offering student accounts to some young people even before they go to college, writes Brian Collett.

Banks usually give student accounts only to young people who have started college and can show they have an education authority award. However, one 18-year-old taking a year off before university got a student account from Lloyds when he gave a verbal assurance that he would be starting his course next October.

He had actually used a little cunning. Student packages consist of interest on current accounts, free banking, interest-free £200 overdrafts, and extras that vary from bank to bank. The 18-year-old first approached a Midland branch and was offered the package minus the interest-free overdraft. He told a Lloyds branch what the Midland was offering — and got the entire Lloyds student package.

One of his friends, who was also taking a year off, had been given all the student benefits too — by Lloyds.

A Lloyds head office spokesman said it was better

to offer the deal to an intending student who appeared a reasonable customer than to allow him to "wander loose and go to a competitor". All four high street banks said that although their general policy was to restrict the package to students, individual bank managers were given wide powers of discretion.

The Midland said a manager might give the student package to an intending student who could not get it elsewhere.

Barclays' spokesman said: "As in everything in life, nothing is black or white, so a manager would look at an individual case."

And National Westminster said: "It is not our policy but we try to be helpful and sympathetic."

One typical case of sympathetic treatment, and possibly a little self-interest, comes from the Midland. A student complained politely to his branch that he had been charged for an overdraft and that a cheque had been bounced. He had omitted to ask formally for the usual student benefits when starting university, but his manager refunded £15 of the charges.

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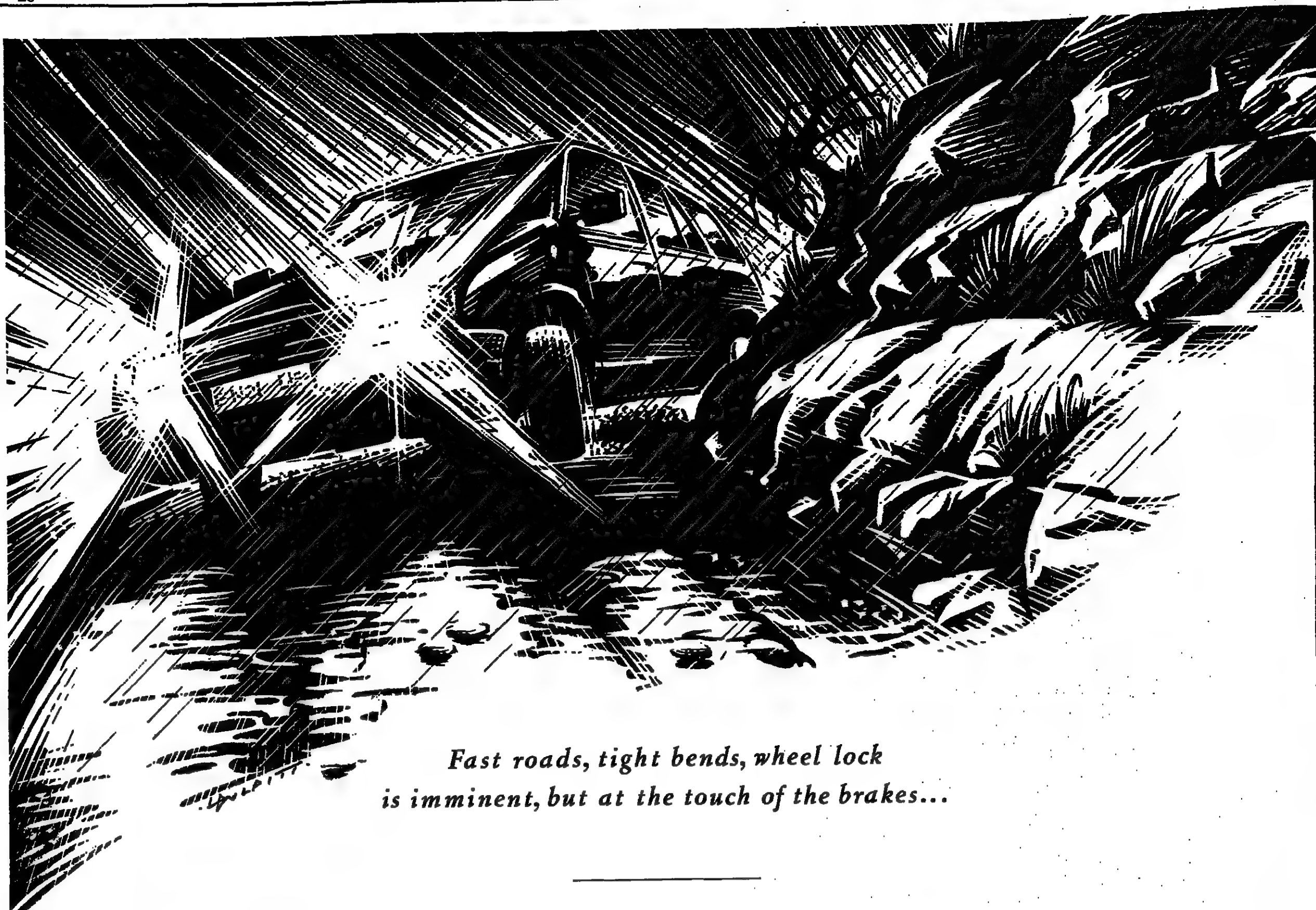
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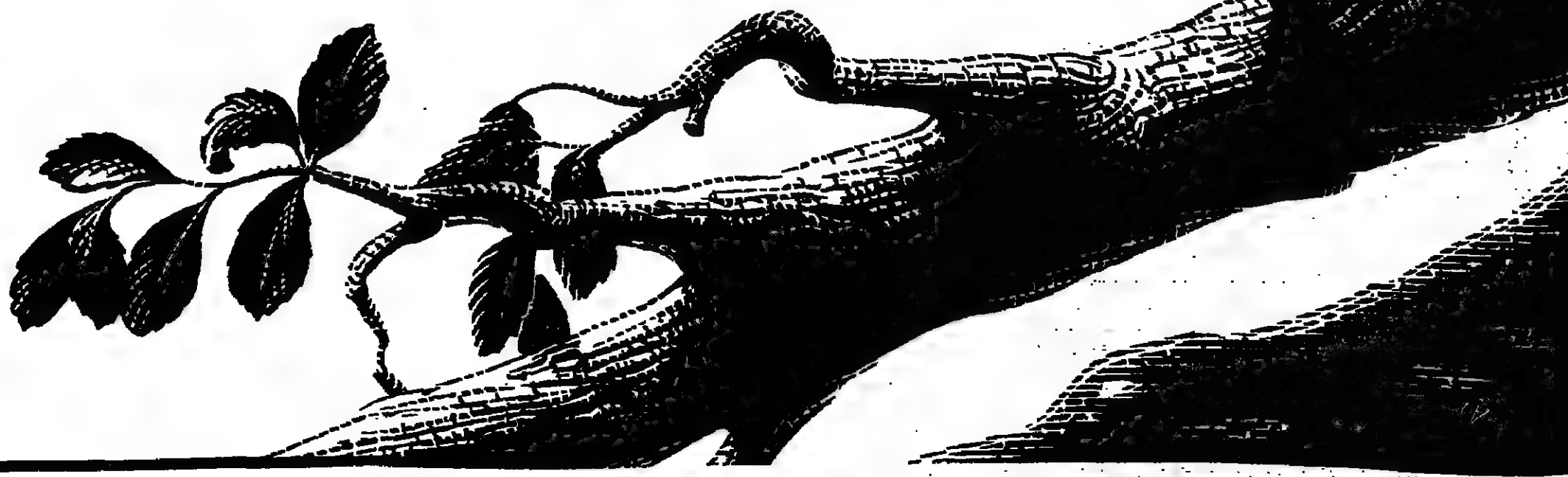
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THE TIMES

REVIEW

SECTION 3

SATURDAY OCTOBER 22 1988



The day the lights went out

You were at a party, or in a lecture hall. You were at the theatre, or watching the TV. You were driving home from work with the car radio on, or listening to the news while getting the supper ready. Wherever you were on that particular night 25 years ago, as Christopher Shennan discovered, you remember it all too well



The President and his wife at Dallas an hour before the motorcade began: the route had been announced in advance, allowing the assassin to position himself perfectly, at a sharp corner where the cars had to slow down

The western world is divided into two: those who remember it happening and those who don't. If you are under 25, it was an event outside recall; if 35-plus, you almost certainly have a clear image, perhaps of long-haired parents crowding round the television screen, the way they had not done since the Coronation a decade earlier.

The actress Glenda Jackson feared "we could be plunged into World War Three". Kenneth Clarke MP, then a pupil at the Bar, had similar thoughts. Rich or poor, great and good, most people, like the Duke of Kent, felt "shocked and dismayed". Lord Callaghan shared precisely the feelings of Archbishop Runcie, of John Arlott and Shirley Williams, that "a light had gone out of the world". Even in 1988 the question can revive a flagging conversation: "Where were you on Friday, November 22, 1963?"

RALPH STEADMAN
Illustrator and cartoonist

I was in a silk screen printer's in East Ham at the time. It was already dark, quite late on a winter afternoon, around six. There was a crackly radio playing in the corner. It must have been the old Light Programme. I remember the artist was Buddy Holly but I don't remember the song. Suddenly the programme was interrupted. An announcer gave the news about the shooting, but he said it was not clear yet what had happened to President Kennedy. I was shocked. He had seemed kind of hopeful for a politician. It was like part of the hope of the Sixties had been snuffed out.

SIR BRIAN URQUHART
Diplomat and scholar

I was in a taxi bowling along the Grand Central Parkway from Idlewild Airport (yet to be called Kennedy Airport) into Manhattan. I was on my way back from a trip to the Middle East. I had been spending some time with the UN peacekeeping force in Sinai. I remember when I got back to my apartment building all the doorman were in tears. I was horrified. That and the death of Dag Hammarskjöld were the two most awful public deaths in my experience. I think we remember them because they were public figures who had engaged our private emotions.

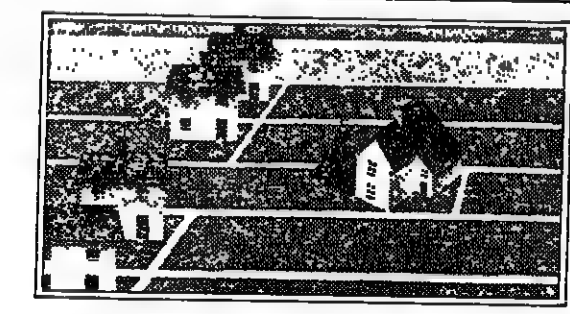
GEORGE MELLY
Jazz singer and critic

I was doing a TV programme in what is now the Riverside Studios. We had a break in the rehearsal. We went to this pub across the road. It was not a posh public house, more the sort used by TV technicians and building workers. Immediately I went in I noticed everyone was looking extremely upset. I said in a jovial way, "Hi, ha. Who's dead, then?" Someone told me President Kennedy had been shot. We had to continue with the programme afterwards. I remember a tremendous sense of doom. I was shocked, very shocked. That surprised me. I was not a great admirer.

MARINA WARNER
Novelist, short-listed for the 1988 Booker Prize

I was in a service flat that my father had rented for me in Marsham Street. My convent school did not do Oxford entrance, so I came up to London to prepare for exams. There was this elderly cleaning maid at the flat. She came in and said: "President Lincoln's been shot". I said: "I know". When she didn't reply and I saw she looked shaken, I said: "What's the matter? What do you mean?" She said: "The President's been shot." It was then that I knew exactly what she meant. I felt terrible. I was alone and remember wishing I wasn't alone. I wanted someone to talk to.

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THE DAY THE LIGHTS WENT OUT

Continued from previous page
Downing College, Cambridge.
"The whole evening was charged with emotion and sadness," he recalls. John Timpson was driving to a Women's Institute meeting to talk about the royal tour to Australia when the news came over the air. He broke it to those present and remembers their stunned silence.

Those in the theatrical world faced the almost impossible task of controlling their personal feelings while playing to dazed audiences. Glenda Jackson was in her dressing room at the Duchess Theatre preparing to appear in the play *Alfie*. Brian Rix was at the Whitehall Theatre, getting ready to go on stage in *One for the Pot*. Anthony Hopkins was at the Phoenix Theatre, Leicester, preparing for the evening performance of Shaw's *Major Barbara*. All share recollections of numbness and disbelief and recall that their audiences either left before the end of the evening or watched in unnatural silence.

The present Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, was in Oxford that November night, preaching. He drove back to his college alone "with many thoughts about the tragedy". At the Oxford Union the young Jeffrey Archer was in another audience when the news struck. Initially refusing to believe what he had heard, Archer felt stunned when the rumour was confirmed. For him Kennedy had personified youth and answered the yearnings of his generation.

Professor Anthony King feared the assassin might be black. As he put it: "Something very vibrant and exciting had gone out of one's life and... something potentially very menacing had come into it."

For others domestic tranquillity was rudely shaken. Tony Benn's initial fear was that Kennedy might be left incapacitated, yet still in control of the nuclear button. His children were so affected that they drew pictures of the shooting. Barbara Cartland had just finished having tea with an American journalist. Like him, she was "extremely shocked", having met many Kennedy admirers earlier that year in New York.

The critic Dilys Powell was waiting for her husband, Leonard Russell, then literary editor of *The Sunday Times*, to arrive home for dinner. Her Irish maids delayed the evening meal without complaint, horrified by the assassination of one of Ireland's adopted sons.

Revulsion and dismay rocked the world. David Dimbleby was on a passenger ferry between Athens and Alexandria when he heard the news on a portable radio



A still from Abraham Zapruder's 8mm film: it is the only known film record of the murder, and the most scrutinized amateur movie in history

which an Egyptian passenger had tuned to the BBC World Service. Arriving in Egypt, he found everyone extremely gloomy. Douglas Hurd, now Home Secretary, was serving at the time in the British Embassy in Rome and remembers vividly the feeling of shock among the Italians.

Derek Worlock, now Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, was dining that evening with Cardinal Heenan at the English College in Rome. He was called to the phone to be told of Kennedy's death. Shortly afterwards, the Cardinal "invited his guests to join in the *De Profundis*. Then the meal was abandoned."

Neal Ascherson, of *The Observer*, was working in West Germany. Kennedy had been very popular in that country since his *Ich bin ein Berliner* speech the previous June. Ascherson was eating alone in a Yugoslav restaurant in Bonn when the radio announced the assassination. However, it was only as he returned home and "saw a woman

screaming and crying in a dark street" that he discovered the identity of the victim. He felt personally devastated by the news, believing it to represent "a cancelling of the future". His memories of Bonn that night were of "people moving around red-eyed, weeping for fear of war".

I did not take long for the world to doubt that Lee Harvey Oswald was the sole assassin. Although the Warren Commission, set up to investigate the killing, concluded that there was no evidence to substantiate a conspiracy, this did not prevent a series of books from openly refuting the opinion. Mark Lane's *Rush to Judgement* provided the most powerful critique of the report. As the 1960s wore on the myths were born, of Camelot, of "The Thousand Days" and the world's "One Brief Shining Moment". With them came the exposure of the late President's personal excesses.

A new twist was given to the

investigation by the first televised showing in 1975 of Abraham Zapruder's amateur video of the assassination. This provided the only known film evidence of the events in Dealey Plaza and gave the post-Kennedy generation the powerful visual image denied to viewers in 1963.

Kennedy was not the first American president to die at an assassin's hands, but the impact was felt world-wide. Why should that be so? Ludovic Kennedy, who had met him in London, has one answer. Here was "a new type of politician, fresh, educated, with no personal axe to grind, very witty and sophisticated, immensely stylish. It was the death of all that that was such a body blow."

But there was another reason. John F. Kennedy was the first international media figure. His death reached into the homes of ordinary people. Enoch Powell, for instance, observed genuine sorrow on the faces of his Wolverhampton constituents. To millions the King of Camelot was a

hero, a golden boy, who came out of the screen inspiring hope for a better world. Perhaps, as Jeffrey Archer believes, only Mikhail Gorbachov today represents any sort of analogy.

For years after that fateful November day, Lord Wilson of Rievaulx found that "the dominating question, both in Britain and... in the United States, whenever two old friends or acquaintances met, was 'where were you when you heard that President Kennedy had been killed?'"

Lord Home of the Hirsel has a clear answer: "On the day of President Kennedy's assassination I was going to stay with a friend in Sussex. On arrival I was told the news. It was a fearful shock. I returned straight to London and paid tribute to the President on the BBC. I was Prime Minister at that time."

Additional reporting by Andrew Lycett

TESSA BLACKSTONE
Master of Birkbeck
College, London



I can remember it extremely well. I was still a student. I was living with my late husband at my mother-in-law's in Sutton, Surrey. It was his birthday and I was cooking him a meal of grilled trout when the news came out. I was sitting in a small front room when I heard the announcement on the radio, between 7.30 and 8pm. I think I remember it was dark. My husband was so upset he couldn't eat the meal. We just drank the wine I'd bought. It was a very bleak birthday celebration. I was appalled that somebody, for all his limitations as a politician, had been gunned down in this way.

BRIAN RIX
Actor and former secretary-general of Mencap



I remember that I was in my dressing room at the Whitehall Theatre, getting ready to go on stage in *One for the Pot*. I had to ring up my wife, Elspet, about supper after the show and found her telling me the dreadful story as it was being reported on the television at that moment. Obviously, I told my fellow actors and it was an incredibly gloomy performance that we gave that evening. Somehow the audience had heard, too, and even though it was a capacity house their reaction was muted, to say the least. All of us felt it as almost a personal loss.

SIR ROBIN DAY
Television and radio journalist



I don't think my reaction at the time was any different from that of anybody else, i.e. shock and sadness. I, like many other television people in London, was attending the annual awards banquet of the Guild of Television Producers and Directors in the ballroom of the Dorchester Hotel. The report of a shooting came through to us between (I think) 7 and 8 pm, and the later news that the President had been assassinated had a shattering effect on all the guests in the ballroom, who had dressed up for a fun occasion. The witty after-dinner speeches seemed flat and inappropriate. If there was any other topic of conversation apart from the tragedy, I did not hear it.

TONY BENN
Labour MP 1950-1960,
1963-1983, 1987-present



I heard the news that President Kennedy had been shot from my two children, who had listened to the news, and I had to leave shortly afterwards to do a meeting in Ealing. I left the radio on in the car and it was then that I heard the news that he was dead, having worried meanwhile that he might have been fatally injured and yet still retain the power to control American nuclear weapons. Everyone at the meeting was very shocked, and when I got home my children were really most affected by it, and they had drawn some powerful pictures of the assassination.

KENNETH CLARKE
Minister for Health



I had just come down from Cambridge and was a pupil at the Bar, living in digs in Olton, Solihull. I returned to my digs in the evening to be told by my landlady that she had just heard the news. She, a sensible middle-aged widow, was quite frightened by the news. Because she knew I was interested in politics, I found myself having to reassure her about the danger of an imminent outbreak of warfare. If it should appear that the Russians had somehow arranged the assassination, I left in a considerable sense of shock myself, having done my best to reassure her.

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This is where the singer Peggy Lee now lives. She and her French Regency-style house seem well suited to Bel Air. Entering her home you feel you have stepped inside her music. It is an under-

Peggy Lee has released a new album — her first for 10 years. She talked to Frances Dickenson and Caz Gorham

stated world of elegance and pastel shades, but novelty is present too: when Peggy Lee gardens she wears a karate suit. The singer, her home and her new album, *Peggy Lee Sings the Blues* (her first for 10 years), are all bang up-to-date and yet they remind us of the good things of the past.

"My new record is an album of old blues," she says. "Songs by people like Leadbelly, Bessie

Smith and Lil Green — whose song 'Why Don't You Do Right' was my first hit. To me, good blues always sounds as if it's just been written. It's always fresh. When I sing I might find new meanings or want to create new expressions, but they're songs that to me never get old, they're always about right now."

Peggy Lee herself seems timeless. Her hair is still Scandinavian blonde and her skin luminously pale. She wears pyjamas, decked with feathers and pearls, cut from a diaphanous fabric of a type she has for many years favoured on and off the stage. She reminds you of an old-fashioned sweet made from spun sugar. The only jarring note was struck by the walking frame that a recent fall compelled her to use. She has, in recent years, been dogged by a series of illnesses and accidents that at one point forced her to perform sitting in a wheelchair. Her characteristic response to this was to begin her concerts with a wry rendition of "I Won't Dance".

"Sometimes," she says, "I think God just keeps me around for laughs. But He's fair. He makes sure I get mine, too, right back to when I first started, when [in 1941] I was invited to join the already legendary Benny Goodman's band. I was a huge fan of Goodman's and it was wonderful not to have to put a nickel in the machine to listen to him. But sometimes he was too much. Terrifying. You've heard of the 'Goodman ray'? He would fix musicians with a look that would reduce big men to tears."

"His special trick for me was that he used to play the melody in my ear while I was singing. Now I don't really sing melody, so finally I said to him: 'If you do that one more time I'm going to hit you in the mouth!' I was on stage singing at the time and I had to sit in between verses, but he got the

message. Later we both thought it was very funny."

In other ways, too, her ear and timing were good. She admits to being "always on the look-out for something new, some fresh sound or rhythm. I'd get my ideas from anywhere. Once, I got an idea for the way I could change the rhythms of a song by watching a film about the Foreign Legion. It had lots of horses and watching these horses walk, then trot, then canter, then gallop, suggested to me how I could switch the rhythms in this particular song. That song was 'Lover'."

This appetite soon established her as one of the most audacious and versatile singers of popular music. She was the first American singer to incorporate Latin rhythms into her songs. "Mama", her first experiment, was for years her biggest hit. She recalls: "It caught on immediately, everyone seemed to be very grateful for a new way to go."

These songs suggest only a small part of the range she has marked out through the three decades that stretch from Goodman's big band era to the Seventies. There was also the poignant theme from the cult Western *Johnny Guitar*, the soundtrack for Walt Disney's *Lady and the Tramp* (for which she also supplied the voice of Peg, the urly street dog), to the irresistibly sexy "Fever".

In 1969 she recorded her haunting version of "Is That All There Is". Leiber and Stoller's song about the disappointment of seeing one's first circus, experiencing first love and so on. This song spoke directly to Peggy Lee. "I felt in some ways that song was my life. It wasn't written for me, but a lot of the lyrics seemed to be about me. Perhaps for that reason I was determined to find a way to sing it that sounded hopeful. It took me a long time, but I think I finally managed to turn it into something positive."

She regularly performs sell-out concerts in America, but she has not recorded a new album for 10 years. Why not?

"Rock music," she replies. "The standard writing of popular songs, show tunes and such has suffered



New ways to sing the old blues: Peggy Lee, "always on the look-out for fresh sound or rhythm"

greatly from rock. I've always been hungry for change, but change for me meant progress and rock didn't seem to offer that. I found the Beatles quite musical... Paul McCartney wrote a song specially for me. But in what came after the Beatles it was difficult for me to find the lyrics or the meaning. I like rock people — don't get me wrong, I don't want to sound as if I wouldn't have them around my

house — but they left no room for me and my music."

Recently Peggy Lee has detected a change in popular music, a move away from the rock she found so alien. In response, she has recorded a new album. And she is once again taking chances. Abandoning the lush productions of her later records, she has returned to a stripped-down quintet of piano, bass, drums, percussion and

vibraphone. It is an album which leaves the singer exposed, making no concessions, offering nowhere for a voice, now in its late sixties, to hide.

From the first notes, her voice rings out — confident, supple and perfectly clear. She says: "I don't like to think in terms of years. When you enter the world of a song, time means nothing. Your world goes on for ever."



Caught by the Sixties: taking a break from all the rock music

John Craxton is prominent among the neo-Romantic painters of the 1940s and '50s who are currently being reassessed, after years in the wilderness, by art critics and public alike. W.S. Gilbert's phrase, "modified rupture", perhaps best expresses Craxton's reception of his revived reputation because he doesn't like the neo-Romantic tag.

"Samuel Palmer was one big influence on us because he showed us Arcadia, so I suppose I prefer the description Arcadian, but I don't even like the connotation of that word much; I am not an escapist painter."

Craxton is a warm and endearing character, full of a youthful mischief which belies his 65 years. He has left his long-term Cretan home for a rare visit to London, and his motor-bike is propped inconspicuously in the doorway of Christopher Hull's elegant gallery in Motcomb Street, Belgravia.

He grew up in St John's Wood as the fourth of six children of a distinguished pianist and professor of music. He remembers the house as always crowded with people, pianos — and clutter, because his mother refused to throw anything away. The clutter became intolerable when the family was forced by wartime bombing to move into a small flat, beds were shunted under grand pianos and Craxton had no room to work.

So it was with relief that he received a letter from arts patron and "Horizon" proprietor Peter Watson, saying: "I have been reading an article by Miró called 'Le rêve d'un grand atelier', and it occurs to me that you must need a studio. Find one and send me the bill."

"It was wonderful, meeting Peter Watson. He was a second father in a way, tremendously generous, a great catalyst and encourager. He bought Picasso, Dali, Klee, Rouault, Sutherland. He wasn't at all creative himself, but he had an incredibly good eye which made him a kind of genius."

Thanks to Watson's £50, Craxton moved into a studio in Abercorn Place, where Lucian Freud joined him.

"We were inseparable friends from 1942 to '46. Lucian was a marvellous companion and I think we cross-pollinated each other's work in many ways. And of course, we were the same age, at large in wartime London. We went nightclubbing together because we were both enthusiastic dancers. We went jitterbugging at the clubs around Denman Street. Then, after a night of drinking and dancing, I would go home and

Spurning the suit of paint strictures

John Craxton is an artist with a colourful, neo-Romantic past — and a brightly aspected future



Migratory man: John Craxton, in London for his show

paint to the sound of big bands on American Forces radio — is that how you imagined the neo-Romantic artist worked?

"We were introduced to the pubs and bars of Soho by some other protégé of Peter Watson, 'the two Roberts', Colquhoun and MacBryde, whom he brought down from Scotland. They were very protective of me, partly because they owed a lot to Peter Watson, so they didn't allow me to get into bad company. I don't think I would have, anyway, I was a total innocent."

"Soho in those days was the

London equivalent of French bohemia, a whole group of artists, poets and writers like Dylan Thomas, eking out a small existence — a marvellous atmosphere, rather fraught, dirty and seedy now I look back on it, but irresistible and wonderfully stimulating."

"Lucian and I attended Goldsmith's College together, in fact, I went to four art schools in all, but I decided very early on that I would never learn to paint at art school — painting is too personal. I didn't want to acquire a ready-made Burton's suit of paint, so I went to

the drawing classes, then painted at home. Lucian did exactly the same."

"Graham Sutherland taught me a lot. He was already a hero to me, and when he saw my painting, 'Poet in a Landscape', he said: 'I wish I had been able to paint something like that when I was your age'. It was the most encouraging thing anyone could have said to me, and he took me drawing in Wales."

"In those days Graham was absolutely enchanting, very good-looking, as was his wife, and a total dandy. The first time I met him he wore a coal-black tweed suit with a pale pink shirt and a green tie; just like one of his paintings. He had had to teach for a living before the war, and was afraid that he would need to go back to it. Peter Watson and I thought that was laughable."

"The Sutherlands enthused about Francis Bacon, they were terribly excited by him. Sutherland was actually influenced by Bacon, which is rather marvellous and interesting: an older painter influenced by a younger."

Coming from a musical background, the neo-Romantic composers were as important for Craxton as the painters. He admired the work of both Michael Tippett and Benjamin Britten.

"But there was such a contrast between them as people: Michael was charming, a warm, interested, open character, while Britten was tight and difficult. I got on all right with him but it was like talking to an oyster. One longed for him to sit back and roar with laughter — I wonder if he ever did?"

Like many English painters, Craxton migrated to the sunny Mediterranean after the enforced isolation of the war years, and he has remained there, partly for his health (his lungs were damaged by childhood pleurisy). He lives on Crete where the air is pure, the light clear and the living cheap. His modest house overlooks the sea at Xania, a Venetian pre-Minoan settlement.

"I like living on a dunghill. I love the idea of thousands of people underneath the house. Nothing would put me off painting more than living in a new town."

En route to London, Craxton visited the Musée d'Orsay in Paris for the first time. "When I came up against the Van Gogh self-portrait I immediately burst into tears. It must be good that I can still do that, that my tears haven't totally dried up."

Anne Campbell Dixon

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THE ARTS

Peter Lewis discusses the playwrights' craft with Peter Shaffer, a man for whom a scene is never finished

And finally, another rewrite

When a play has been doing capacity business for a year, a reasonable playwright might be inclined to leave it well alone, sit back, and draw his royalties. This is not the reaction of Peter Shaffer, a perfectionist. The fact that his play, *Letice and Lovage* is being recast and re-rehearsed after a year was, in his eyes, a splendid opportunity to rewrite it. Not for the first time did this most successful of playwrights decide that second thoughts — or tenth thoughts — may be best (he once spoke of having made 50 drafts of *Amadeus*).

Many writers tinker with their plays in rehearsal, but Shaffer is a compulsive reviser. During rehearsals for his biblical epic, *Yonadab*, at the National Theatre two years ago, there were almost daily rewrites. It was one of his few failures — although it achieved 100 performances, this is failure by Shaffer standards. He has rewritten it until it is "stronger, clearer and very much nearer to the play I wanted to write in the first place". A New York production is planned for next year and, as with *Amadeus*, New York will see a different play from London.

Beerbohm, a cat of strong and vocal character who appears to own the Globe Theatre, had met us at the stage door and conducted us to a dressing room where he sat, putting insistently against Shaffer's purple shirt and cardigan.

Shaffer was eagerly and earnestly ready to discuss his work. He is a frequent attendee at his own plays, seeing them every week or two and always seeing the actors afterwards. "It is an absurd convention that after the first night everyone disappears and they are left to get on with it. More than that, it is the reaction of the audience that tells you of something that needs to be done. Hearing 900 people reacting to your lines can be reassuring but sometimes I feel that I have let them down. Then I feel like shouting, 'Oh for God's sake, Peter, surely you can find a better line than that!'"

The Peter principle: Shaffer outside the Globe Theatre, where the recast *Letice and Lovage* is to star Geraldine McEwan and Sarah Kestelman

Revising lines he sees as a part of the after-sales service that should be provided by the playwright as craftsman. "I always emphasize the 'wright' in playwright. Part of his task is to hammer that wheel until all the bumps are out and the play rolls smoothly. In the case of *Letice and Lovage* it was more than that. I felt that the existing ending only just snatched by. I think I have found something that fits the situation much better."

Letice Douffet, the wayward country house guide and the leading character in his play, will from next Tuesday be played by Geraldine McEwan in place of Maggie Smith, for whom the play was originally written and who is

taking it to New York (rewritten, of course). Shaffer likens this play to a concerto for a virtuoso with solo cadenzas and, in his preface, writes of watching the sparks fly from Maggie Smith during rehearsal as "one of the most glorious pleasures available to the playwright". "Now I am experiencing that all over again by watching another highly skilled cast doing something different with it." Geraldine McEwan, who took care not to see her predecessor's performance, is partnered by Sarah Kestelman as the other half of the duo.

The play took Shaffer back to writing comedy for the first time since *Black Comedy* was produced more than 20 years ago. No more

brilliant comedy, with its reversal of light and darkness, has been seen in the succeeding 20 years. On its first night it provided Shaffer with what must be another of the most glorious pleasures available to the playwright. The man sitting directly in front of him in the audience actually fell out of his seat into the aisle from laughter and beat the carpet, crying: "Stop it, stop it! Oh, please stop it!"

The play also took him back from the epic style of his more recent plays to the naturalistic conventions with which his work began. In 1958 he made his stage debut and his name with *Five Finger Exercise*, in which he used the conventional West End draw-

ing room set with chintz on the sofa and drinks on the sideboard as the springboard for the domestic violence of a family at war. Since then he has been celebrated for the schematic staging and theatrical gesture of the ascent of the Andes and death of the sun-god in *The Royal Hunt of the Sun*, the horse-worship of "Equus", and the death of Mozart through the power of Salieri's malevolence in *Amadeus*.

Of the two approaches, abstract and realistic, Shaffer prefers the abstract. "I suppose the bolder explorations of the grammar of the theatre require larger invention, but naturalism will never be superseded for certain kinds of play, especially comedy."

Shaffer's career as a playwright began in the New York Public Library, where he worked in the book ordering department. He had gone to New York after Cambridge, where he and his twin brother, Anthony, had jointly edited *Granta*. They subsequently jointly wrote three detective novels. Work in the library was boring and he wrote his first play there "underneath the blotter". It was about illegal Jewish immigrants to Palestine in 1947-8 and was given a production in the first year of ITV in 1955. Shaffer was by then back in London, working at Boosey and Hawkes in music publishing. When he was offered a future with their brass instrument factory at Edgware, he resigned to become a playwright.

He eked out a living writing book reviews or music criticism for small magazines while *Five Finger Exercise* came into being. He could not believe his ears when H.M. Tennent phoned him six months later to ask if he would mind John Gielgud directing it. It was the first of many Shaffer plays to hit Broadway with great and lucrative success. For years he regarded New York as a second home. Now he likes it less and less.

"The English have an instinct for the theatre. They fulfil themselves through theatre. Our public life is all acting: ceremonial, costume, and we perform it very well. You don't find an American bank manager playing Tennessee Williams — but English bank managers will often put on Wilde or Rattigan. I think we cherish acting because we like being other people — the other people in ourselves. The tendency in American culture is to want to show that you are a balanced, normal guy. "I suppose one reason for being a playwright is being a frustrated actor. Another reason is to experience an audience reacting to something you have written. When I was young I had a powerful sense of my own invisibility. If you hear a lot of people laugh at a joke you have written, you do start to feel more real to yourself."

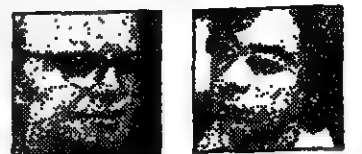
THE TIMES ARTS DIARY

Last word

Alex Cox, the left-wing British director of *Sid and Nancy* and *Repo Man*, has been banned from future membership of the Writers' Guild of America after supposedly breaking the Hollywood writers' strike. Cox was called before the guild's disciplinary committee for working on a rewrite of a new Dennis Hopper film, called variously *Backtrack* or *Time to Die*. As a Brit, Cox was not a guild member, but the union persuaded sister organizations the world over to instruct members not to break the five-month strike. His agent says Cox is in Italy and "unavailable". But Cherry Rhoden of the guild says: "I don't think he is too proud about what happened."

Phantom script

Extraordinary news from Cannes, where a major TV and video market was held this week. The fair's daily paper proclaimed: "Dennis Potter has been hired to write the blockbuster Hollywood version of the successful musical,



Potter and Lloyd Webber

Phantom of the Opera. But Potter's regular collaborator, Kenneth Trodd, says Potter did write a script for *Phantom* — for a remake of the silent movie, not the Lloyd Webber musical.

From our sponsor

Abba, the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts, launches the first Goodman Award next month. The Duchess of York will present the silver and bronze gong to someone who has made an outstanding contribution to encouraging arts sponsorship. Colin Twedd, the Abba director, says: "The recipient could be a business sponsor, a fund-raiser or a journalist." I, of course, have often said in this column that sponsorship is vital to the well-being of the arts.

Andrew Billen

Pause, and hear another voice

No democracy is healthy without a vociferous opposition, but the opposition must not just be voiced, it has to be heard. Our freedoms depend on whom we are prepared to listen to. Some important social issues now seem to receive public

TELEVISION

attention only if aired by a member of that curious legacy of political history to the entertainment industry, the Royal Family.

Once people listened to Harold Pinter all the more because he said so little. Writer's block notwithstanding, great plays were more forthcoming than public political pronouncements. But recently he has become politically much more active and open. In his BBC1 *Omnia* interview with Anna Ford he spoke out unhesitatingly against, among other things, the British Government for its attack on "the dissenting voice", against American policy in Nicaragua, against torture in Turkey and other countries, and against the biased British press.

Pinter's new committed garrulousness has been criticised, even mocked, by some as the intrusion

of a social Socialist better equipped to reduce the world to spare drama than to enlarge upon it in a political arena. But whether you agreed with his arguments or not, his clear, simple serious positions on human rights and abuses of power demanded to be listened to for their pertinence as much as for his celebrity.

Indeed, they sounded refreshingly to the point because the media cult of personality in our Western democracies has diminished rational debate as the means of political opposition: a "Teflon" president who can contradict himself, even lie, with impunity is not threatened by others; a Prime Minister who is so powerful that her followers only publicly dissent in "code" is not too troubled by an opposition which has a personality clash over the politics of the Filofax.

In a week which, for reasons good or ill, the Government further curtailed the rights of citizens, it was appropriate to hear from a playwright who has with such imaginative thought expressed in his work the dangers of authoritarianism.

Andrew Hislop

Everyone's at the fair

THEATRE

Bartholomew Fair
Oliver

Everyone loves the idea of Ben Jonson's great celebration of the annual Smithfield blow-out but, all too often, what you get is the spectacle John Arden described as "a lot of people wandering about, all absolutely barmy". Never until Richard Eyre's marvellous production had I realized that, within its teeming canvas, *Bartholomew Fair* is as craftily constructed as *Volpone* and *The Alchemist*.

As a first move, the production takes an unhistorical leap from Jacobean to a late Victorian London peopled with instantly recognizable social types: Redcoat masters, helmeted bobbies, giggling girls in vast floral hats, callow youths. We meet some of them before the fair gets underway in the home of John Littlewit, a living-room taken straight from *The Diary of a Nobody* with the complaisantly uxorious Littlewit (David Bamber) as a Jacobean Potter. Enter two wife-battering Redcoats (Stephen Moore and Patrick Drury), who know



Zealous hypocrite: David Burke

Littlewit of old, and promptly set about fondling his wife. The first act builds to a superb surprise with the arrival of Jonson's ultimate Puritan hypocrite, Zeal-of-the-Issue and Busby, who rolls into view, having been detached with difficulty from a turkey pie, in the elephantine stone-faced figure of David Burke, bellowing anathemas in the voice of Belfast's best known Unionist.

By such means, the production lifts up its great weight of fairground visitors before plunging them into the Smithfield melee. At which point the full apparatus of William Dudley's fair engulfs the stage with sparkling big wheels, a giant steam organ, and booths overflowing with shiny trinkets.

Fairground characters appear in quick succession, each establishing himself in a few seconds: Mark Long's horse-coursing spiv; Jonathan Cullen's Chaplinesque pick-pocket; Mark Addy's pig-woman Ursula, wedged with difficulty into her throne before descending on two brawlers with a pan of sizzling fat.

It is hereabouts that the play tends to subside into anarchy. This time it remains firmly on the rails, as a comic contest between people getting on with their lives, and the judges who try to control them. Busby is one of these: the other is John Wells's Justice Overdo. Wells, who becomes increasingly solemn as his headgear and false nose become more ridiculous, defines the ruling comic pattern, as a disapproving outsider irresistibly sucked into the life of the fair.

For once a production has got on top of Jonson's language instead of being buried under it. Scenic language comes first; and never more than in the concluding puppet play, where Busby's invasion of the lewd spectacle reaches a climax when he loses his religious breeches, disclosing a frilly salmon-pink foundation garment.

Irving Wardle

Mountain Language
Lyttelton

Anyone aged over 40, Shaw said, is a scandal: a motto that applies with particular force to England's post-war playwrights, who have so often begun by raising public issues, then retreating into a personal world once they have acquired property. Harold Pinter has turned this pattern inside out: now, in his late fifties, embarking on the kind of angry political writing that usually betokens the start of a writer's career.

The obvious question is whether this marks the opening of a new phase, or the onset of terminal silence. *Betrayal* appeared 10 years ago, since when all he has written for the stage are three short political pieces: *One for the Road*, *Precisely* (a 10-minute sketch on the absurdity of nuclear arms bureaucracy), and the 20-minute piece which now appears, *Mountain Language*.

One for the Road still preserved the character of a malignant cat-and-mouse game that recalls *The Birthday Party*. *Precisely* expresses its fury through a sardonic contrast between actualities and the evasions of political utterance. In *Mountain Language*, there are no cunning verbal mechanisms to stand between the spectator and the brute spectacle of state-enforced oppression.

Set in an unnamed country, it consists of four brief prison scenes. In the first, a group of women visitors wait outside all day to see their imprisoned menfolk. We then move inside for more intimate glimpses of an inhuman regime: the prohibition of the prisoners' native language, a young wife catching sight of her battered husband; streams of blasphemous insults like blows to the face; the final sight of an old woman who, finally permitted to speak the forbidden language, has nothing to say.

If you consider the events, certain less obvious things do emerge. For instance, in the act of suppressing the "mountain language", the state has also destroyed its own. The Sergeant (Michael Gambon looming over his victims in black glasses) and the other guards are confined to repetitious obscenities or dead officialisms.

But you soon start feeling foolish in examining the piece along these lines. It is a scream of outrage, designed simply to point out yet again, and probably in vain, that such scenes are being enacted in prisons all over the world.

Pinter's production is as precisely designed as an elegant instrument of torture and his company, particularly Tony Haygarth and Eileen Atkins, transmit extreme emotion with the barest verbal material.

I. W.

The harmony of the sexes

Mühlfeld Trio
Purcell Room

Sex — I mean gender of course — is irrelevant to most things. Nevertheless, music still requires corrective measures to redress the enduring balance between male and female composers. The Mühlfeld Trio, named after the clarinetist who inspired Brahms, is 10 years old this year, and in celebration they played their part in working towards equality by commissioning two works for each of their two anniversary concerts tealled *British Women*

CONCERT

and *Men in Music* from two women and two men. Thursday night's recital, the second, gave us Anthony Powers's *Trio* and two complimentary movements by Nicola LeFanu. *Lullaby* for clarinet and piano, and *Nocturne* for cello and piano. Powers's work displayed what has become the hallmark of his style: powerful and clear organization of his ideas, lushly and resourcefully scored and harmonized.

The *Trio* is in three interconnected movements, two fast

ones framing a slow one. Though the piece may not have quite the striking force and originality of Powers's earlier chamber work, *Another Part of the Island*, it is still both elegant and fresh. LeFanu's two pieces are rather different, both slighter and more expensively rhapsodic. *Lullaby* juxtaposes vivid imagination with soothing murmurs, equivalent to a mother's bedtime stories. LeFanu says, and the lulling of her child to sleep. *Nocturne* is both more uniformly restful and yet more lyrical, an unashamed seamless song of love and maternal gratification.

To both of these works the trio, of Victoria Soames (clarinet), Julia Vohralik (cello) and Tanya Isaacson (piano), brought ample confidence and verve, as they did to the remaining works in this commendably enterprising programme. Of these, Graham Williams's *Six Miniatures* for clarinet and bass clarinet and cello did their job with wit, imagination and variety; Charles Camilleri's *Orbits* for clarinet and megaphone was idiomatic, concise and convincingly dramatic; and Phyllis Tate's *Sonata* for clarinet and cello, at 41 by far the oldest work in the recital, made up in sharp inventiveness for what it lacks in depth. But the most riveting of these older works was Simon Bainbridge's *Three Players*, of 1983, turning minimalist gestures into music of substance and real exuberance.

Stephen Pettitt

Missed connections

ROCK

Anita Baker
Wembley Arena

At its best, Anita Baker's voice swirls like the smoke unfurling into the spotlight from a bebop saxophonist's cigarette in a 40-year-old Herman Leonard photograph. In the overcrowded field of female soul singers, it is an instrument of great beauty and character.

She and her record producer, Michael Powell, have hit upon a setting which revives some of the more natural properties of soul music while concentrating on opulent ballads styled and paced to flatter the sensibilities of what the marketing people call an aspirational audience. Hits such as "Sweet Love" and "Giving You the Best that I Got" conjure up the contented intimacy of log fires, fur rugs and sensitive young adults.

On record, the mixture oozes gently from the speakers and fills a room without dominating it. In concert, though, something goes wrong. When she appeared at the Hammersmith Odeon in 1986 her inability to make a real connection with the real-life audience was disconcerting: she displayed the same traits at Wembley Arena on Thursday evening.

She is neither interestingly aloof, trusting in the loveliness of her voice, nor genuinely warm,

Sometimes, particularly in "You Bring Me Joy" and "Caught up in the Rapture", she reproduced the magic of the records; more often, unnecessarily vocal elaboration ruined her purity of tone and line. Like Dionne Warwick a couple of years ago, she used a Michael Jackson song ("Just Another Part of Me") to make a connection with part of her audience. It was a perfunctory nod, but at least Jackson came off better than poor Billie Holiday, whose "God Bless the Child" was comprehensively caterwaulled into submission in an arrangement of utter bogusness.

What she needs is an arranger who can define her real virtues. For an affair of such prestige, too, the sound quality was a disgrace, which can hardly have helped her concentration.

Richard Williams

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BOOKS

Poetry of furnished rooms

Philip Larkin's gift was for the plain expression of plain thoughts.

Robert Nye reviews his collected work

After the more or less false start of *The North Ship* (1945), a book full of echoes of Yeats and others, Philip Larkin established himself with *The Less Deceived* (1955) as a poet with a voice of his own and something to say. Mild but hard-edged regarding its own limitations of feeling, strictly committed to the notion of the poet as apologist for the quotidian, that voice seemed most at home with the plain expression of plain thoughts:

Ah, were I courageous enough
To shout: Stuff your pension!
But I know, all too well, that's
the stuff
That dreams are made on.

Larkin wrote those lines in 1954.

They embody a tone that was active in his work to the end. Curiously, the phrase that some readers might find offensive — although true enough to the way most people feel, at least occasionally — seems to me to sit rather uneasily in the poem as a whole. Larkin never quite mastered the slangy and the demotic in the way he would have liked to master it.

The last volume of poems that he published in his lifetime, *High Windows* (1974), struck me as conspicuously poorer than its two immediate predecessors in that it contained fewer modest and decent essay-poems in metres subdued to their occasions, and more tough stuff. The tough stuff was not quite so convincing, and it was hardly surprising, though rather sad, that no further book by the writer appeared before his death in 1985.

Now we have all his published verse brought together in one volume, along with many minor or unfinished pieces, early and late, though few of these date from the last years, and most are of interest

merely in that they show what a fine self-critical sense led the poet himself to reject them.

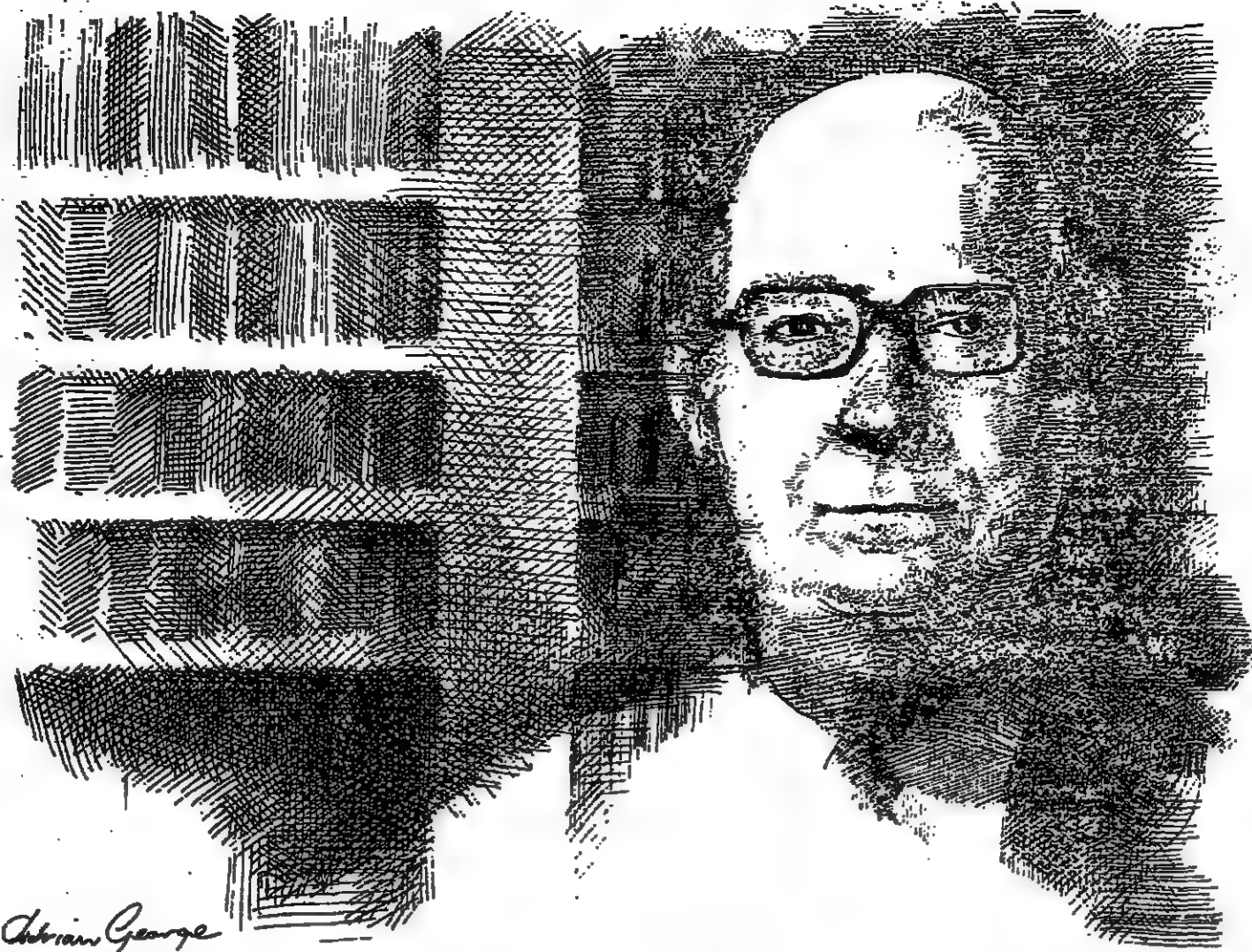
Those to whom *The Less Deceived* and *The Whitsun Weddings* (1964) are coherent and well-admired volumes may find it disconcerting to see their contents now diluted in precisely the sort of book that Larkin seems to have avoided making even when his poetic impulse had all but dried up.

On the other hand, it should be recorded that the poet carefully preserved and dated the notebooks and typescripts upon which Mr Thwaite has based his edition, so it cannot be that we are now privileged to read mistakes that he never wanted us to know about.

In fact, I found it helpful to an understanding of his seriousness to follow Larkin's progress in the form favoured by this *Collected Poems*, and there is something moving about that moment in 1950 when he quite abruptly shakes the romanticism from his style and writes first "Deceptions" and then the other poems of his maturity, "Church Going", "Love Songs in Age", and "Lines on a Young Lady's Photograph Album" in the years that follow.

All this work went into *The Less Deceived*, and in my opinion that book still holds the very best of Larkin, the poet who wrote an unfurnished poetry of furnished rooms — poems about men who have not taken the risk of marriage, and live alone; poems about missed chances, unfulfilled opportunities.

The typical Larkin poem is a subtle and sensitive examination of not really having lived very much at all. For this reason, and because he was technically extremely adroit, he suited the mood of English poetry in what could be defined as its post-Dylan Thomas period. Anything further from the



Christian George

celebrations of the Welsh poet's "Fern Hill" would be hard to imagine.

Even if Larkin ran on the spot thereafter, it was at least a spot which he had found for himself and which no one else had occupied before. At worst, he could be said to have been a bit too content with imitating his own success — pleasantly enough, and with a self-deflating enthusiasm, in such a poem as "Roads Revisited"; more tediously in "Send No Money", where the cliché lines

Tracing the true untransferable
Truss-advertisement, truth
spart from making their point too
savagely through alliteration,

seem facile and unconvincing because they recall rather closely and inelegantly the earlier

Of the continuous coarse
Sand-laden wind, time

But — at best? At best, Larkin was in my opinion the very honest and unpretentious poet who wrote "Broadcast", "Talking in Bed", "The Large Cool Store", "The Importance of Elsewhere", and "Dockery and Son", as well as the more popular and anthologized poems mentioned above. These are poems as clean and stringent as any of our day. "Dockery and Son", for all its trite conclusion, is surely the most moving thing he ever permitted himself.

For Dockery: a son, for me
nothing.
Nothing with all a son's harsh
patronage.

This excerpted, there are few lines here which come off the page for quotation as touchstones; Larkin just was not that kind of poet. After the early lyrical exclamations, his language became for the most part frost-bitten with inhibition, subdued to each particular small occasion of verse, and the few times when he did let the self-satirical brake off the result are not happy — smashing "poetical" cliché as in the last stanza of "An Arundel Tomb", or this from a poem in praise of

Sidney Bechet: On me your voice
falls as they say love should, / Like
an enormous yes.

Still, it is hardly fair to instance a man's worst lines when he seems after a certain point to have written quite consciously to write the kind of poetry in which there are no best.

This posthumous *Collected Poems* should certainly be read as a whole, and studied with great care by anyone concerned about the present state of English poetry. The lessons to be learned from it are not perhaps those already inflicted upon us by Larkin's disciples, but there are good poems to be found in it for that.

A dying cliché is captured

Simon Barnes

HONGKONG:
XIANGGANG
By Jan Morris
Viking, £14.95

I was travelling to work on the 8.30 ferry from Yung Shue Wan on the outlying island of Lamna, to Central District on Hong Kong Island, when someone pointed them out. We had just turned into the harbour, when we saw the mountains, the rows upon rows of shining, skyscraping, almost literally fantastic buildings.

And there, on the ferry, was a small group of Cantonese peasants. They were clearly illegal immigrants who had come over to Lamna from the mainland in some fishing junk or sampans in the night: haircuts like gooseberries, ill-fitting, borrowed Western clothes, and their mouths agape with incredulity.

That sensation is something all travellers to Hong Kong feel, maybe in a diluted form, and it is what travel writers have been trying to catch for years. Hong Kong must be one of the most written-about places in the world. What a pity it is that practically everyone has missed the point of the place: Hong Kong has every cliché a writer could wish for, the contrast of old and new, colourful markets, aromatic temples, gateway to China, opium-scented past, buccaneering *laissez-faire* present: as a bonus, the never-to-be-forgotten point that Hong Kong is the only place in the world that knows when its end will come: in 1997, China will take over, and Hong Kong will be Xianggang, as the Pinyin transliteration bizarrely insists.

Travel writing is easy if you want to say nothing. Many people can write about journeys, but very few writers have a sense of place. The best of these, I have always thought, is Jan Morris. Hong Kong is a fiendishly difficult city to write about well, but she has managed it with her customary air of effortlessness.

She understands the greatness of Hong Kong, and also the unabashed awfulness of the place. Outsiders so often fail to get the hang of it. They find it grasping, money-obsessed, tacky: the outdated reputation for shoddiness ("Made in Hong Kong") still clings to the place. Or worse, they find it colourful.

Hong Kongers themselves,

British and Chinese both, are defensive, or even bewildered in the face of such incomprehension. They feel their place is undervalued by the outside world.

"It seems slightly comical even to talk of relations between Hong Kong (population 5.6 million) and the People's Republic of China (population 1,000 million). But the relationship is not just between a minute colony and a colossus, but between two immense historical forces. It was the irresistible energy of the modernist West, approaching the climax of supremacy, that placed the colony of Hong Kong on the edge of China; it was the impotence of the traditional Chinese civilization at its nadir that allowed this to happen; it is the gradual equalizing of the two, and the spread of technology absorbing them both, that is now bringing the association to its climactic denouement."

Morris has an uncanny ability to hit nails on heads. Hong Kong, I served by its travel writers for years, has waited a long time for a book like this. She describes the crowds of office workers that rush across the street to read the latest stock exchange prices "like the little crowds that assemble round television shops when a Test match is being played", neatly understanding the role that money plays in the spiritual and sporting life of Hong Kong.

She understands the wonder of Hong Kong, a ridiculous dot of a place that, in its 16th in the table of world industrial producers. She also puts her finger on the fatal flaw of the place, how the British "missed their chance to give Hong Kong the one quality it has always lacked — nobility."

It is now too late for much more than a noble afterthought. 1997 approaches, and Morris has already booked a hotel room for the last night of British rule. The price is HK\$1,197.

Nye Bevan's anger still burns bright. Anger aimed at capitalism, at the Tories, at his own Labour Party, and most sadly, at his own class for failing to deliver his dream of socialism. Like Lenin, Aneurin Bevan has become a great father figure of his party, the guru whose phrases are learned word-perfect by the faithful who walk in his intellectual shadow.

In the last parliament, Ann Clwyd, herself a South Wales valleys MP, shouted angrily at the Prime Minister: "Do you recall that 40 years ago Aneurin Bevan described your party as being lower than vermin and its policies as being organized spivvory?"

Mrs Thatcher could have told her, but did not, that the hated fierb barbed backfired and is generally thought to have contributed to slashing Labour's majority in 1950. Clwyd's intervention, appropriately during a debate on the future of Bevan's great memorial, the National Health Service, was instructive in being a fine example of the selective idolatry afforded to the

The class hero from Tredegar

Tim Jones

NYE BEVAN AND THE
MIRAGE OF BRITISH
SOCIALISM
By John Campbell
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £9.95

big blue-suited boy from Tredegar. Labour Party members in the Commons or elsewhere are not often heard referring to Bevan's rejection of nuclear unilateralism although his plea not to send a British Foreign Secretary "naked into the conference chamber" was never forgotten or forgiven by the left of the party.

With the Labour Party he loved

once again torn over the nuclear defence issue and the Government under constant attack over the health service, the publication in paperback of Dr John Campbell's searching and sharp biography of Bevan is timely.

Campbell has become Bevan's iconoclast, but this is not a book which seeks to destroy. He has plucked him from the protection of Michael Foot, his official biographer, and has presented the "Bollinger Bolshevik, Lounge-Lizard Lenin" with all his strengths and political frailties. Unlike Foot, Campbell had access to Cabinet papers for 1945-51 and the diaries of Hugh Gaitskell.

The man who was, for a short period, susceptible to Sir Oswald

Mosley, and also influenced by Lord Beaverbrook, never forgot his commitment to his class or his conviction that socialism could be delivered through the agencies of parliament. "He clung to the belief that if the party could only be released from the dominance of the trade unions it might yet be won, or won back, for socialism."

Campbell poses the question of where Bevan's anger stemmed from, but does not really answer it. Perhaps it can only be answered in the pubs of the Rhondda where eyes young and old burn with hatred when the Tories are mentioned. Like *hiraeth*, there are some things buried too deeply within the Welsh psyche for outsiders to understand.

It is, in one respect, an incomplete biography — Campbell does not delve into the private life of Bevan, and that is a pity. As it is, he has produced a biography of the highest quality and scholarship. For anyone seeking to understand the modern Labour Party it is essential, fascinating reading.

Thrills and spills of politics and pleasure

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

FICTION

Antilles of the Savannah by Chinua Achebe (Heinemann, £3.95) Grave and poetic political thriller and State-of-the-Continent, Booker short-listed last year, by the father of English fiction in Africa.

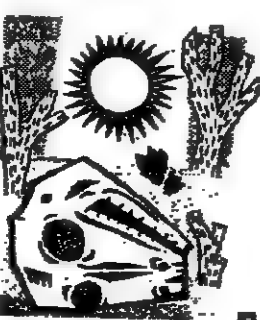
Bebyton by René Crevet, translated by Kay Boyle; *Conversation in Silence* by Elio Vittorini, translated by Wilfrid David, introduced by Stephen Spender; *Froth on the Daydream* by Boris Vian, translated by Stanley Chapman (all Quartet, £5.95); *Molra* by Julian Green, translated by Denise Folliot (Quartet, £5.95) Influential works of 20th-century European literature, neglected in Insular UK, introduced by eminent contemporaries.

Not Fade Away by Jim Dodge (Abacus, £3.99) Rock 'n' roll novel set in 1965 in crazy quest, as music of Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, and the Big Bopper lives again.

Lovers of Africa by Vickery Turner (Black Swan, £3.95) Sophisticated comedy of urban manners as well as delicate love story.

Penguin Classic Crime by Julian Symons (Penguin, £4.99) All

Chinua Achebe
Antilles of the Savannah



the masters, from Poe to P.D. James, but represented by unfamiliar and atypical stories. The Apple Tree and other stories by John Galsworthy (Penguin, £3.99) Ilicit and troubling love affair set in the hazy summer of 1902, now filmed as *A Summer Story*. The Biggest Modern Woman of the World by Susan Swan (Pandora, £4.95) Feminist political comedy about a giantess searching for home in a world she doesn't seem to fit.

QUICK GUIDE

Vinegar Soup by Miles Gibson (Black Swan, £3.95) Black comedy of scoffing and boffing, teasing eroticism and culinary *jolie de vivre*.

POETRY

House of Moon by David Harth (Secker & Warburg, £5) Second collection from author of *A Signalled Love* (1985), musing domesticity with the towering past and its dead.

The Oxford Book of War Poetry chosen and edited by Jon Stallworthy (Oxford, £5.95) From Homer and King David to Northern Ireland and the "Next War", 250 old favourites and surprises illustrating the shift of sensibility towards the potent topic, the second oldest theme of poetry.

The Poetry Book Society Anthology 1988-1989 edited by David Constantine (Hutchinson, £6.95) The annual anthology of contemporary British poetry.

NON-FICTION

Ancient Egypt by A. Rosalie David; *Classical Greece* by Roger Ling (Phaidon Oxford, £9.95 each) Handsome and accessible coffee-tables.

Echoes of the Great War. The



Judges by David Pannick (Oxford, £4.95) Accessible and anecdotal account of how judges work, are appointed, and other questions that need to be washed in cynical acid.

The Best of Beethoven selected and introduced by Michael Frayn (Heinemann, £5.95) From Captain Foulenough to Cocklecarrot, the man whose humour does not fade, and still makes us shiver.

The Compleat Woman by Valerie Grove (Hogarth Press, £4.95) Marriage, motherhood, career: can she have it all?

The Great Philosophers by Bryan Magee (Oxford, £5.95) Introduction to western philosophy based on the television series.

The Race for Riches by Jeremy Seabrook (Green Print, £4.99) First publication of powerful Green polemic against the certainties of monetarist economics and the values that underpin modern society.

The Revolution of 1688 in England by J. R. Jones (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £8.95) First published in 1972, updated with a new bibliographical essay, reassessing the Glorious Revolution and putting it in context of late 17th-century English and European politics.

Strange animal tales

CHILDREN

Brian Alderson

LITTLE SOPHIE AND LANKY FLOP

By Els Pelgrom
Translated from the Dutch
by Arnold Pomerans
Illustrated by The Tjong Khing
Cape, £7.95

This is a bizarre story. The events take the form of a picaresque dream-play, acted out by Little Sophie, who is dying, and her nursery companions: a live cat, an undependable Teddy bear, and Lanky Flop, a wooden doll.

The adventures take them through scenes hallowed by children's fantasy literature: marshlands and stormy seas, poor men's cottages and rich men's palaces, prisons and orphanages. There are moments of comedy (rather forced) and of lacrimosity (rather contrived), with a mixture of the social criticism and undigested metaphysics.

And yet... there is something to be said for an author who will take her chances among the shadowy inconsistencies of a dream-story. She is fortunate enough to be supported by the illustrator The Tjong Khing and however deficient in craftsmanship, the story is brought to glittering life by a succession of sketches and full-scale drawings.

In an afterword to *The Teeth of the Gale*, illustrated by Pat Marriott (Cape £6.95), Joan Aiken concludes the blustery enterprise that began with *Go Saddle the Sea* and *Briddle the Wind* (both now published in paperback by Puffin). The three books — all illustrated to perfection by Pat Marriott — show the author displaying her rare talents for comedy and violent surprise in the unlikely environment of 19th-century Spain. It looks as though Miss Aiken is as sad as her readers to lose her felicitous hero and his colourful entourage. In *Martin's Mice* by Dick King-Smith, illustrated by Jez Alborough (Gollancz £6.95), rural England is beset by another unnatural phenomenon. This time a farm kitten develops a penchant for keeping pet mice in a clapped-out bathtub.

The animal demotic ("Oh, I shall eat out tonight" said the fox, "Grab myself a takeaway.") and the puns ("mouse-to-mouse resuscitation") are as brisk as ever and give the absurdities their peculiar charm.

The Monster Garden by Vivien Alcock (Methuen £7.95) provides another breed of pet (and pun). The story's energy lies in Frankie's efforts to conceal a global monster from her biologist father, but its appeal lies in the portrayal of the mild-mannered, vulnerable jellid-baby itself.

Pioneer families have long provided a fruitful subject for American writers of children's books. Edith Herself by Ellen Howard, illustrated by Ronald Himler (Collins £6.95) mixes epilepsy into the customary pattern of family worries out there on the margin of things.

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PAPERBACK



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FROM
ALL GOOD
BOOKSHOPS

RECORDS

Across a bridge to triumph

CLASSICAL

C P E Bach: The Last Sufferer of the Saviour La Petite Bande/Külken, Edl Deutsche Harmonia Mundi CDS 7 477 53 8 (2 CDs)
Gesualdo: Tenebrae Responses The Tallis Scholars/Peter Phillips, Gimell CDGIM 015 (CD)

Ask a university music graduate to name a major work by Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach and the likelihood is that the title of an oratorio will not be the answer. Hearing the splendid *Die letzten Lieder des Erlösers* of 1770, one of four large-scale oratorios composed in the years following Bach's appointment as music-director of the five main churches in Hamburg in 1768, makes one wonder why. Here, surely, is the bridge between the Passions composed by his father and the Masses of Beethoven, a music that sustains the searching spiritual intensity of both while exploring by means of new harmonic freedoms and vastly developed forms — the aria with a double *da capo* structure, or recitatives that blend imperceptibly into arias, for instance — expressive avenues hitherto uncharted.

The solo singers are severely tested by the angular lines and by the sheer intensity of it all. Listen, for an extreme example, to the tenor aria "Wende dich Zu Meinem Schmerz", an agonizing, delectable 12 minutes, sung with a

Here, surely, is the bridge between his father and Beethoven — music that sustains spiritual intensity

beautifully creamy tone by Christoph Pregardien. Everyone, however, rises to the challenge. The sopranos, Barbara Schick and Greta de Reyghere, make the most of another epic, the duet "Muster der Geduld und Liebe" while Catherine Patricz (alto) and Max von Egmond (bass) also contribute with distinction. Equally, the orchestral and rather limited chorus work, respectively by La Petite Bande and the Collegium Vocale Gent, are both imaginatively executed under the guidance of Sigiswald Kuijken. The recording, though made with West German Radio's analogue equipment (what, in 1967?) sounds well.

The Tallis Scholars offer a recording of Gesualdo's *Tenebrae Responses*, coupled with four rich Marion motets. There is plenty for the lover of harmonic eccentricity to get his teeth into here, too, yet what emerges above all is the composer's almost stiflingly close identification with the emotions of the text. His integrity is unquestionable. The high quality of the Tallis Scholars, under Peter Phillips, and the quite lovely recorded sound, mark this disc as yet another potential winner from the Gimell stable.

Stephen Pettitt

Second-hand country

ROCK

Steve Earle: Copperhead Road (MCA MCS 3245)
Duran Duran: Big Thing (EMI DDB 33)
Fishbone: Truth And Soul (Epic 4811731)
Thin White Rope: Red Sun (Demon VEX 8)
Dinosaur Jr: Bug (Blast First BFFP31)

Although the square jaw and absurdly thick southern accent remain, Steve Earle seems to have mutated rather worryingly from the regular-guy persona of his New Country debut *Guitar Town* into a long-haired, hell-for-leather rock 'n' roller on his third album, *Copperhead Road*. One is left wondering whether such a mid-stream change of horses is a ploy to better his commercial fortunes by playing to the Springsteen/Mellencamp fans in the gallery, or simply a reversion to type (in which case, how genuine was he about being a New Country saviour in the first place?).

Such contradictions tend to appear so starkly in Earle's case only because of his assiduous self-promotion as the genuine article, a blue-collar hero of the people. The title track of *Copperhead Road* is a typical tale of outlaw bravado which neatly encapsulates the cyclical nature of life on the wrong side of the tracks, as dope-growing son follows in the footsteps of moonshine-producing grandfather and father.

Despite the odd burst of saccharine, neo-Zeppelin guitar and drums, that song is led by the tinny strumming of a mandolin, and generally the album's best moments are to be found in the acoustically-led songs. "Johnny Come Lately" is a pleasingly daff shenanigan which features Earle's drinking companions the Pogues. The merry sounds of banjo, mandolin and peppy whistle mitigate to some extent the cannon blast of the snare drum, and Shane McGowan's backing vocals are buried well down in the mix.

But too often here Earle lets himself down, expressing obvious sentiments over second-hand riffs. "Back to the Wall" sounds like the Georgia Satellites sounding like the Stones. "Waiting on You" could have been an out-take from a Tom Petty session. "Even When I'm Blue" homes in on the vogue for imitating Sixties harmony groups like the Byrds, and "Once You Love" a song written with John Cougar Mellencamp's guitarist Larry Crane, is brash with an unpleasantly mawkish lyric.

Unlike Earle, Duran Duran is a band with no artistic credibility to protect in the first place, and as such could have afforded to risk a bold overhaul of its image and sound. Unfortunately, the best the trio has been able to come up with is *Big Thing*, an ill-defined attempt to place its silky, soulless melodies into the sort of airless, adult-pop world inhabited by much older artists like Bryan Ferry. Apart from an atypical burst of white guitar noise set to an impressively pulsating funk rhythm track on "Lake Shore Driving", the whole thing is a catastrophic waste of time.

Fishbone is an extraordinary sextet from Los Angeles, often cross-referenced with Vernon Reid's black heavy rockers, Living Colour. But as its second album, *Truth And Soul*, shows, Fishbone is a lot more varied in approach than practically any other group one might care to mention, black or white. The succession of styles here range from a heavy metal version of Curtis Mayfield's "Freddie's Dead" through a Princely funk-up, not altogether innocently titled "Boogie in the Boneyard", to an acoustic folk strumalong called "Change".

So many sudden wrenches the album becomes a bit wearing by the end, but it rejoices, nevertheless, in an unpredictable, throbbing vitality.



From country boy to outlaw bravado: Steve Earle, making tracks towards rock'n'roll's commercial heartland, with his guitar

of taut musicianship and ugly, brooding psychosis.

Their mini-LP, *Red Sun*, is a collection comprised mostly of unlikely cover versions, including Marty Robbins's "They're Hanging Me Tonight", Lee Hazlewood and Nancy Sinatra's "Some Velvet Morning" and Gene Pitney's "Town Without Pity". Guy Kysar sings in a deep, tremulous moan that sounds like a man stressed to breaking point, while he and his co-guitarist Roger Kunkel strum

and scrape their instruments to provide swelling, mordant textures of sound. This is not as exciting a concoction as much of the group's previous work, but these old melodies are nevertheless gradually drawn into the primeval atmosphere of the arrangements.

For those in search of the ultimate weird-out, Dinosaur Jr's *Bug* takes some beating. In common with Fishbone and Thin White Rope the American guitar

trio pay little heed to the conventional wisdoms that box their English counterparts in to so many stylistic corners. Like Husker Du before them, Dinosaur Jr dish out delicate, even poignant melodies on top of horrendously distorted guitar sounds. Solos that would make the howling of a cat sound tenebrous are interspersed with moments of plaintive beauty. At least one of the tracks, "Don't", is simply unlistenable.

Perhaps it is not too far-fetched to characterize *Bug* as rock's unskilled, animalistic equivalent of hard bop in jazz. Certainly, it is an experimental music that recognizes no boundaries, let alone takes any notice of commercial considerations. Instead, it ranges freely across the continents of pop, metal, country and thrash with a display of the kind of naive joyous innocence that gave rock its spark of vitality.

David Sinclair

Sweet solos

JAZZ

Lee Konitz Quartet The New York Album (Soul Note 121 169)
Miki Wakina & Joshua McLean Left Alone '86 (Paddle Wheel K23P 6453)



Warmth of tone: Lee Konitz

and breadth and flexibility to what was once a deadpan music; he has discovered the virtues of space and silence (his playing on the new album's "Candlelight Shadows" achieves a contemplative elegance that would not be out of place on an ECM chamber-jazz record); and he has switched from playing the changes to playing the tune — in other words, he improvises on the substance and meaning of a song, rather than exploiting its mechanical structure.

The *New York Album* contains, in "Invitation" and "Dream Variation" (based on "Darn that

Dream"), two particularly potent examples of that last skill. "Monkian Round" pays tribute to another great exponent of thematic improvisation, managing to catch its subject's essence as well as his superficial mannerisms.

Unsignalled on the sleeve, Konitz picks up the soprano saxophone for two tunes, "Everybody's Song But My Own" and "September Waltz". The former, by Kenny Wheeler, makes an interesting contrast with the version which appeared last year on Stan Sulzmann and John Taylor's album of duets. Konitz pirouettes prettily on both pieces, and certainly avoids the piping shrillness that one all too often associates with the soprano, but it seems to me that the horn restricts his emotional scope, denying him the hard-won expressive range he now commands on the alto.

This small reservation does not prevent a wholehearted cheer for an album which is also distinguished by the collective sensitivity of the pianist Harold Danko (who is gradually becoming Konitz's latter-day *alter ego*), the bassist Marc Johnson and the drummer Adam Nussbaum.

Jackie McLean is an altoist of a similar vintage who also gives voice to his reverence for Charlie

Parker in a comparably individual way. A favourite in the late Fifties and early Sixties, notably for a fine series of Blue Note recordings which culminated in the classic *Bluesnik* and *One Step Beyond* sessions, McLean disappeared for most of the Seventies before making a successful comeback a few years ago.

Left Alone '86, recorded during a Japanese tour, suggests that his playing has not moved with the years. Divorced from the adventurous spirit of his youthful work, that unique sour-sweet sonority now sounds merely a bit eccentric; the content of his lines, too, rarely diverges from the hard-bop conventions. The pianist Mal Waldron, an old sparring partner, is a similar case. Perhaps they need something more imaginative than the standard saxophone-and-rhythm format. Such a threadbare setting doesn't seem to hinder Lee Konitz greatly, of course.

Richard Williams

Drama at a killing pace

OPERA

Wagner: Die Walküre Metropolitan Opera/Livina DG 423 389-2 (4 CDs)
Wagner: Ring extracts

Strauss: Die Frau ohne Schatten Radio/Sawallisch EMI CDS 7 49074 2 (3 CDs)

is only at the very top of the voice that experience shows its less happy aspect. Unfortunately, that cannot be said of Hildegard Behrens's Brünnhilde, which gives alarming cause for concern and only attracts confidence towards the very end of the opera.

Much depends, therefore, on the Wotan of James Morris, recently chief of the gods in the preceding part of the cycle at Covent Garden. He is superbly eloquent, and wields a fine *mezza voce*; this is very much a young and lyrical god, and if Morris has to make the choice between long phrasing and expressive sudden accent, he usually prefers to keep the line warmly rolling. His is,

therefore, a performance rather on the Norman model, though with greater variety of colour, and allowing the suspicion that a different conductor, giving him a faster and more flexible lead, would elicit a quite different account of the part from him.

Heard after Levine's Daniel Barenboim's Wagner sounds wonderfully spirited, even perky, the effect enhanced by the flavoured, very French playing of the Orchestre de Paris woodwind. There is an innocence here, and it is a little unfair that the anthology, recorded in 1983 and 1984, should have been retained to capitalize on Barenboim's prominence as

this year's Ring conductor at Bayreuth.

However, there is the lure of a Wagner rarity, *Le descente de la Courtille*, which is not a premonition of *Parzifal* (La Courtille turns out to be a place of amusement outside Paris rather than a mystic vestment) but instead an exuberant rondo-valse number written for a Parisian theatre in 1840.

There is miraculous playing, too, from the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra under Wolfgang Sawallisch in the new *Franz ohne Schatten*, which is billed as the first complete recording of the opera. It comes at the right moment, and certainly supports the present revival of interest in this most elaborate of Strauss's operas, at least as far as the orchestral performance is concerned.

Sawallisch is never surprised by the turns the music takes, by its quick shifts from bourgeois domestic drama to high-flown fantasy or its interweaving of sweetness, cheerful bluntness and strange opulence. Perhaps even he does not persuade one that there is a distinctive *Franz* world — the memories of earlier operas come too freely for that — but it is quite an achievement to make such a rich score seem to unfold so splendidly of its own accord.

Unfortunately, not everyone in the cast gives the same impression of being perfectly at home, though some do. Cheryl Studer is thrillingly sure and brilliant as the Empress, a magical being in her command and in the shades of coldness and apertness she brings into her voice. Hanna Schwarz is an authoritative Nurse, and Alfred Muff invests the plain man Barak with generous, expressive warmth. The deficiencies in the two other principal roles are relatively unimportant when so much is going so magnificently well.

Paul Griffiths



Reflective radiance: Jessye Norman excels as Siegmünde

Coming so soon after his deep and potent recording of *Parzifal* from Bayreuth, James Levine's new *Walküre* is a considerable disappointment. The only common factor is the basic slowness which, of course suits this most swift-moving of the Ring dramas far less well than it does the grand epilogue of a quarter-century later.

At such speeds, and with the Metropolitan strings providing a rich sheen, it is hard to avoid a note of vulgarity in the blossoming love music of the first act, while the solemnity of the slower episodes, notably the Annunciation of Death, is not intensified but rather refrigerated: the music becomes stone cold and motionless. When something more vigorous is required, Levine time and again exaggerates the rhythmic profile in a way that risks sounding pat and inconsequential: this is a very characteristic instance of this, the end of the second CD, in the postlude after Wotan has given his final instructions to Brünnhilde.

Of course, the drawn-out tempos also cause problems for the singers, with the single exception of Jessye Norman. Her shining line never sounds a bit over-extended, though the effect is to encourage her in her pursuit of an even-tempered reflective radiance, so that she sings Siegmünde's part throughout as if it were the "Four Last Songs".

Since the Siegmund, Gary Lakes, sounds small of vocal stature, with a bright but tight tone that cannot be a vehicle for heroic physicality, the first act is enlivened only by the Humding of Kurt Mol, who sings with all his usual weight and justness of expression, providing exactly what is required and no more.

The other principals are also a mixed bunch. Christa Ludwig's is a supreme queenly presence as Ericka, and effectively so this is a most intelligent performance, and it

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EATING OUT

May I get your goat, sir?

It is not merely London's face that is forever changing, its names are too. Take Hatcham. Where? Quite — the name, still current after the Second World War, is commemorated now only in a public house and a Liberal Club of the 1890s. Hatcham's inhabitants now believe that they live in New Cross or Nunhead.

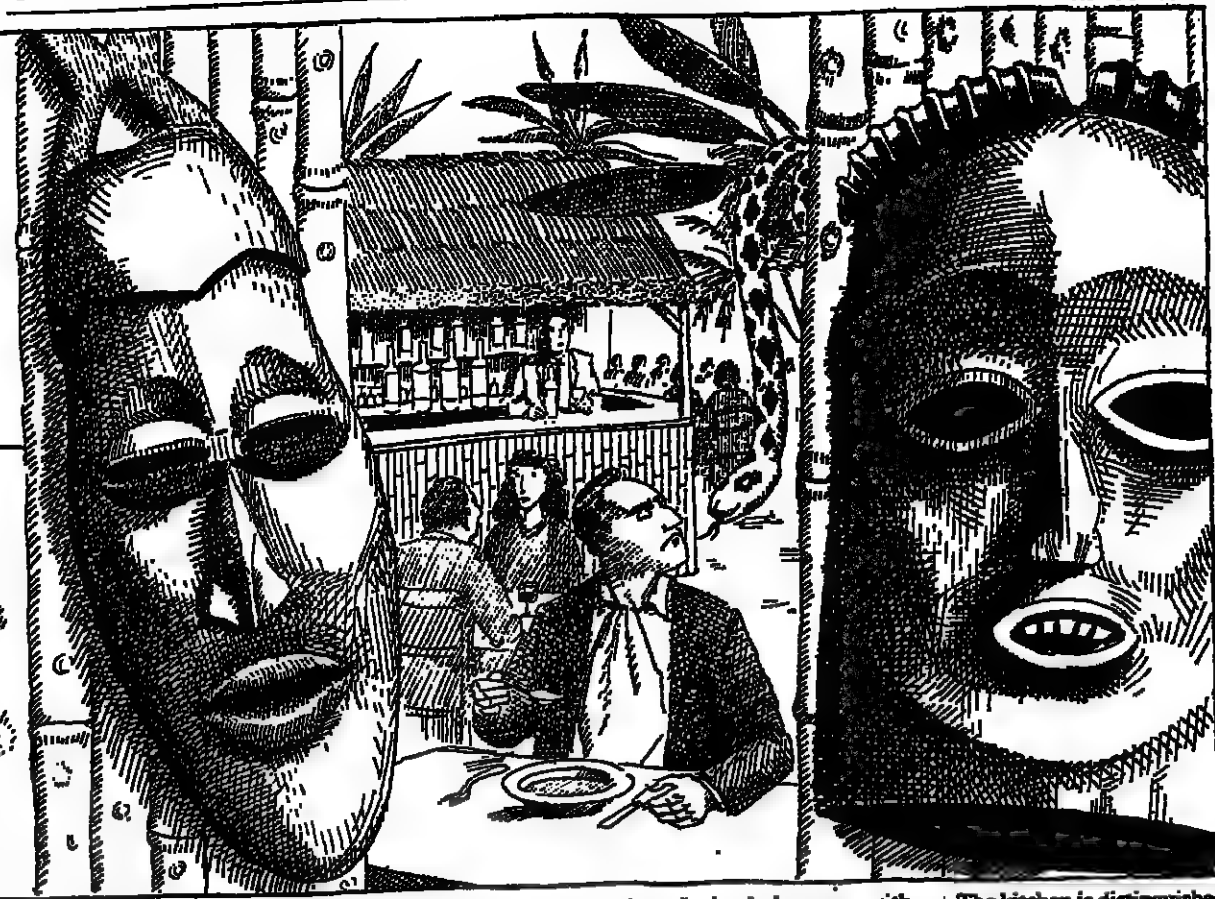
The same thing has happened across London at Child's Hill which, if you like, a suburb of Cricklewood or the gateway to Golders Green. However, in pursuit of the harmless fib that London is a series of "villages" (which it isn't — it is a seamless band of suburbia, mostly), the restaurateurs of Child's Hill make sure that the name of their patch is loudly displayed on their bump and bills.

Harmless enough, this, as I say — but what of Safari's curried kid? Isn't this taking it a bit far? The name does not have to be quite so literally rammed down our throats. Then, of course, the penny drops — it is a goat's child you are eating, which makes it OK. It doesn't, actually, the meat was not especially good, though the mild sauce thickly masked it. I suppose the fact that it was goat obviates having to ask awkward questions about the source of supplies though such questions are what the kid's accompaniment of fu-fu prompts.

This is a real oddity; it is white, dough-like, strikingly elastic, vaguely reminiscent of potatoes mashed with serious doses of oil, more firmly reminiscent of puffy putty. It is made from cassava flour or yam flour and is rather better than it may sound: still, I don't see it taking off in a big way — it is more likely to appeal as an object of curiosity rather than delectation. Fu-fu is west African, curried kid is Caribbean; this gives some idea of the restaurant's ambitious range, though sheer distance should not be thought to imply culinary heterogeneity.

The predominant impression is of dishes on one note: the ideas of counterpoint, of development of flavour, of complements are not part of the repertoire. Pepper

Jonathan Meades goes on safari in little-known 'village' London



soup, for example, tastes of no more nor less than a bowl of hot water overflavoured with ground peppercorns; the bit of very bony fish that floated in it hardly improved matters. The service at Safari is what is called relaxed. Safari is thick with masks, gewgaws, bamboo, ceiling-high plants, a rush-roofed bar and so on. There is an impressive selection of Nigerian and West Indian beers, various sorts of rum and palm wine, and an authentically odd non-alcoholic drink called peanut punch.

This appears to be the result of a collision between the said nuts, condensed milk and sugar; the collision takes place in the controlled environment of a blender. The result is obviously a boon to devotees of peanuts and condensed milk; again, I don't see it taking off in a big way — it is nowhere near so agreeable a drink as the Spanish *horchata* which is made from tiger nuts and which has notably failed

to find an audience in this country. I spent just over £15 at Safari. Two people, drinking alcohol, would be likely to exceed £40.

At the other end of Child's Hill, that is to say right at the traffic lights and just past the excellent Laurent cous cous house, is Quincy's which used to be called Quincy's '84. I assume the suffix referred to the year when it was founded though I must say that it looks like a place of 10 years prior to

that. It is dark green with striped tables, 1920s Light fittings, plants, fan and so on. It is also busy, cramped and fairly friendly.

In the window is a cutting from *The Sunday Times* in which Alan Coren, *inter alia* director of this paper and author of *The Cricklewood Diet*, tells us that Quincy's is his favourite restaurant. It is certainly a very good neighbourhood restaurant but it pretends to no more than that.

Pinocchio's
160 Eversholt Street,
London NW1 (01 388 7482)
★★★★
£45 for two. All major cards.
Noon-2.45pm Mon to Fri, 8.30-10.45pm Mon to Sat.

The Great Nepalese
48 Eversholt Street, London
NW1 (01-388 6737/5839)
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of is that section of central London which stretches from the Euston Road to Camden Town and which is known, if at all, as the site of the wretched new British Library.

Pinocchio's seems stranded. It is a rather chic little Italian place done out in black, white and grey with a leavening of chrome. There are thin Venetian blinds, art deco-ish lights, fans and so on. The overall impression is one of rather prissy neatness.

The cooking has a bit more body to it but also has tendencies towards over-tidiness. Standards are also inconsistent.

One starter, of subergrine gratin (parmigiana), was terrible — the subergrine nearly raw, the tomato sauce indifferent; another starter, a risotto with boletus mushrooms, was impeccable. The carpaccio is good, and served in reasonable portions; a duck breast was cooked to a uniform greyness and served with a fussy little vol-au-vent filled with a root veg purée. Calf liver and veal were both fine, the bread is excellent, the vegetables dreary.

The sweets — vanilla ice cream and pear mousse — were well made. The wine list is as curt in its descriptions as the menu; it does, however, contain some good things including a 1980 Amarone. Drinking something more modest, two will pay about £45.

A few hundred yards down the road is The Great Nepalese. Great, indeed: this is unquestionably among the finest sub-continental establishments in London.

The cooking is as hearty as it is spicy. Barbecued lamb is served with coriander and garlic; lentil cakes are given a mild curry sauce; there are potato-like dumplings; the chutney of black beans is unusual and excellent; there is a coriander pickle which is like an intense cold soup; spinach is prepared with capsicum; the mango kuli is iced with almond flavoured sugar; the lasa is lovely.

The plastic banquettes mark this establishment as defiantly old wave — but who cares? The food is marvellous and the service is friendly. Without alcohol two will pay about £25.

FOOD

Cheese might

To look at advertisement boardings on supermarket shelves until recently you would have thought Britain had only nine cheeses to its name — all pale, pasty and mass-produced.

It is still true that most British cheese is not worth eating it, but things are improving. There were fewer than 30 farms making cheese by traditional methods. Now there are 150, and even supermarket buyers are exploring the byways to find them.

Asda, appropriately for a chain that had its origins in dairying, has pioneered a drive to put real cheese into the supermarkets.

Its cheese buyer, Hazel Hallett, with the assistance of a cheese factor who had hitherto specialized in supplying what some would call "designer cheeses" to restaurants and hotels, put a selection of hand-made and farm-produced cheeses, such as Devon Garland, Cotesmore, Beamerdale, and Botton, into two branches.

Now she has got as far as offering "regional" selections of small producers' cheeses in all Asda's 121 stores. The first of her regional cheeses has just gone "national" into all the shops. It is Pant-y-gawn, a goat's milk cheese from Gwent. Others will follow.

But Asda has had a change of policy. Two large outbreaks of listeriosis food poisoning associated with soft cheese in Switzerland and the United States caused worldwide concern, and Asda has decided that in future it will only sell cheese made with pasteurized milk. For the moment it is continuing to sell some unpasteurized cheeses — like the Irish Cashel Blue and Pencarreg from Wales — but only against a promise that the makers will start to pasteurize shortly.

While pasteurization kills harmful bacteria, it also destroys the enzymes and inherent flavours in the milk which make the cheese of a particular herd and its pasture unique. The dedicated enthusiasts who make Britain's best cheeses insist that their methods are so scrupulously hygienic that pasteurization is unnecessary.

As it happens, the Swiss cases of listeriosis (which resulted in meningitis, encephalitis and death) stemmed from Vacherin Mont d'Or, a soft

cow's milk cheese which had been made with pasteurized milk. Vacherin Mont d'Or milk. Vacherin farmers with made by French farmers with unpasteurized milk caused no problems. The American cases originated in soft cheese from Mexico, where hygiene standards are very low.

Only two cases of listeriosis in Britain (both with meningitis, but neither fatal) have been associated with food — one linked to an imported French cheese, the other with a goat's milk cheese made in Britain.

The British cheese had been made with "pooled" milk — from several suppliers — which had nonetheless not been pasteurized. Anybody who cares for dairy hygiene, health expert, accepts that pooled milk must be pasteurized to have an acceptable standard of safety. That is why "farmhouse" cheese sold in Britain can be such inferior stuff. It is no longer required that even half the milk used comes from one farm. Any amount can be brought from other suppliers but then it must be pasteurized.

Listeria monocytogenes, the organism which causes listeriosis, lives in the soil. It can survive cold and acidity. It can multiply easily in soft, moist cheese and be present even in hard, pressed varieties. But its spread in animals, and thence to cheese, is now known to be closely associated with silage feeding, and especially with badly made and old silage.

It will be a tragedy if "listeria hysteria" becomes so rife that pasteurization is made compulsory for cheese-makers who take pride in using only their own milk, feeding top quality hay, and not letting their animals anywhere near clean, let alone dirty, silage. It would not be quite such a tragedy, perhaps, if Britain's best cheeses are kept out of the supermarkets.

There are increasing numbers of specialist cheese shops who know how to look after and sell the product properly, and supermarkets are a long way from doing that.

While Asda is to be commended for taking a lead that Tesco and Sainsbury are now trying to follow, it may be trying to follow for the moment that it should be content with the pasteurized second best.

Robin Young
ADRIAN BROOKS

RESTAURANT GUIDE

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DIRECTORY

This is a changing selection of restaurants visited in recent months — managements and standards may have changed. Stars — up to a maximum of 10 — are for cooking rather than swags and chandeliers. Dishes described are included to give an indication of the cooking, but may well have changed. Prices quoted are for a three-course meal with drinks for two, and are determined according to the "When in Rome" principle. In the case of French places, aperitifs and a bottle of modest wine; tea in the case of oriental ones; beer or less in the case of Indian ones and so on, JM.

ITALIAN
Al San Vincenzo
52 Upper Mulgrave Road, Chesham, Surrey (01-861 9763)
★★★★★
Tiny and original restaurant in a row of suburban shops. Vincent Borgognio uses good ingredients and is not afraid to adapt traditional recipes: veal stuffed with mozzarella and ham is authentically delicious, the accompanying sauce oozes much to French practice. Sweets are inventive, cheeses far beyond the usual dismal plates of Dolcelatte. £20.

River Café
Thames Wharf, Rainville Road, London W6 (01-385 3344/01-381 8824)
★★★★★
Part of a complex of former industrial buildings converted by the architect Richard Rogers for his own practice, this spartan cantina-like dining room serves arguably the finest Italian food in London. The recipes are home ones, mainly Tuscan and Piedmontese and the ingredients are fine and simple. Allowed to speak for themselves, Bolito misto, salads, rare beef with herb green sauce, beans soup, tomato and bread soup — all these are splendid, so are the wines, and so is the setting. £40.

Pegu Dinal
690 Fulham Road, London, SW6 (01-738 1155)
★★★
The only place in London specialising in Sardinian cooking. Recommended is a gutsy sauté of eel with tomato and black olives and the seafood risotto is superb. Drink Sardinian Salsotto. £45.

La Capannina
24 Romilly Street, London W1 (01-437 2473)
★★★★★
Cheese fondue on the ceiling but there is cooking rather than catering. Lovely risotto with porcini, carefully done calf's liver with rosemary, fine vegetables. Cramped tables. £45.

RESTAURANTS IN HOTELS

L'Auberge de Provence
St James's Court Hotel, 41 Buckingham Gate, London SW1 (01-821 1899)
★★★★★
Seriously overpriced hotel restaurant which is run in conjunction with L'Auberge de Provence near Arles. The cooking is more authentically Provencal than the rather dire Oscar. Most dishes are a touch too over-elaborate to really work. The wines are greedily priced, the service is very friendly and rather chaotic. £110.

Hiroko
Kensington Hilton, 179 Holland Park Avenue, London W11 (01-603 5003)
★★★★★
Good quality Japanese cooking served in a boathouse, light wood dining room approached through the airport-like hotel. Tartar steak with sesame, fine seafood, subergrine spread with soy paste, grilled mackerel and eel. £25.

Capital Hotel
22 Basil Street, London SW3 (01-588 5171)
★★★★★
Small Knightsbridge private hotel with swish elegant dining room and mostly congenial service. Philip Britten, sometime number two to Nico Laderici, cooks some way from his master's shadow. Excellent steaks with tomato basil and olives, good scallop feuilleté. Justly reputed wines for the well heated. £100.

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THE TIMES COOK

Fair game calls from the wild

DIANA LEADBETTER

As the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness digs in, Frances Bissell suggests sampling the joys of hare, wood pigeon, wild duck, grouse, partridge, and pheasant

Someone asked me recently, if I thought game was elitist food. When I said no, I was then asked why, in that case, did more people not eat it? Availability is one reason, but even that can be overcome by ordering what you want from your local butcher. The supermarkets, too, are stocking an increased range of both feathered and furred game.

It is not expensive when you compare it with other meat and poultry. A whole hare weighing 5-6lb/2.30-2.70kg should cost no more than £7 and often much less. It has tender meat on the saddle for roasting, the hind quarters for jugged hare, plenty of carcass to make good rich soup, and meat on the forequarters to combine with belly pork, liver and spices to make a well-flavoured terrine or coarse pâté.

One of the reasons I enjoy cooking and eating game is that it is so versatile in the dishes that you can create around it, hot or cold, elegant or rustic, light or substantial. Other seasonal foods combine well with it - pears, apples and chestnuts will enrich sauces; celeriac, parsnip and other root vegetables are the perfect accompaniments, and fresh walnuts add an unusual texture to game casseroles and terrines.

Butchers and game dealers will prepare the meat, skinning or plucking as necessary and also making sure that it is hung as appropriate, although it can be ordered unhung. Supermarkets sell their game ready prepared in neat packages as they do chickens and turkeys, and there is scarcely any need to get your hands "dirty", which is why, I think, many people avoid cooking game. There is nothing dirty about game.

Sainsbury's sell some game ready jointed; for example, saddle of hare is £2.58 a pound and portions are £2.18 a pound. Wood pigeon, mallard (wild duck), grouse, partridge, hare and pheasant are all in season now, and are no more difficult to prepare than poultry. A bonus is that game is a very lean meat and, therefore, lower in saturated fats and cholesterol than red meats.

Autumn also means beans. Marvellous store-cupboard standbys, dried lentils and beans, are good in soups, salads and casseroles. If I am making a bean salad, I always prepare enough to add to a vegetable soup. The

following recipe is a rough guide. Adapt it to whatever vegetables you have available. Stock made from a ham bone is very good with beans, and you can substitute pasta shapes for the spaghetti.

Bean and vegetable soup

(Serves 6)

6oz/170g dried cannellini or haricot beans

1 large onion stalk

1 celery stalk

2 medium carrots

2 tsp olive oil

2 to 3 cloves garlic

14oz/395g tin plum tomatoes

2 pints/1.15l vegetable or light meat stock

2 or 3 courgettes

1 leek

2oz/50g green beans

1 tsp fresh basil or parsley

salt and pepper

extra olive oil, to serve

Cover the beans with 3 inches/7.5cm cold water, bring very slowly to the boil (this can take 40 minutes); remove from the heat, and allow to stand, covered, for an hour. Drain and rinse. Peel and finely chop the first three vegetables, and fry in the olive oil, until soft and translucent. Add the peeled crushed garlic, the tomatoes and the beans. Pour on the stock, bring to the boil, skim off any impurities which rise to the surface, cover and simmer for an hour. Wash and slice the courgettes and leeks, top and tail

'Game is no more difficult to prepare than poultry and lower in saturated fats than red meats'

the green beans, and add to the soup. Cook for a further 20 to 30 minutes until the beans are tender. Season to taste. Stir in the herbs, ladle the soup into heated

soup bowls and spoon a little extra oil on top.

To make a more substantial soup, a meal in itself, add ¼lb/110g broken up spaghetti with the green vegetables and serve the soup poured over toasted bread sprinkled with plenty of olive oil.

Roast saddle of hare with apple and chestnut sauce

(Serves 4)

1 or 2 saddles of hare, depending on size

½ pint/280ml apple juice

1 sliced onion

1 tsp juniper berries

chives or other herbs

Marinate the saddle overnight in the apple juice together with the onion, juniper berries and herbs. Remove the hare from the marinade which you strain and set aside for the sauce. The final cooking takes very little time so that you should have everything else ready that you will be serving with the hare.

Heat the oven to gas mark 8, 230°C/450°F. With a sharp knife, ease the two fillets away from either side of the back bone, without removing them. This makes carving easier. Put the hare in a roasting tin and roast for 15 minutes. Remove from the oven, and let it rest in a warm place while you prepare the plates. Slice the hare into thin diagonal slices and serve with the sauce which can be made while the hare is roasting.

The sauce

1 onion

1 little olive oil

liver from the hare

2oz/50g unsweetened chestnut purée

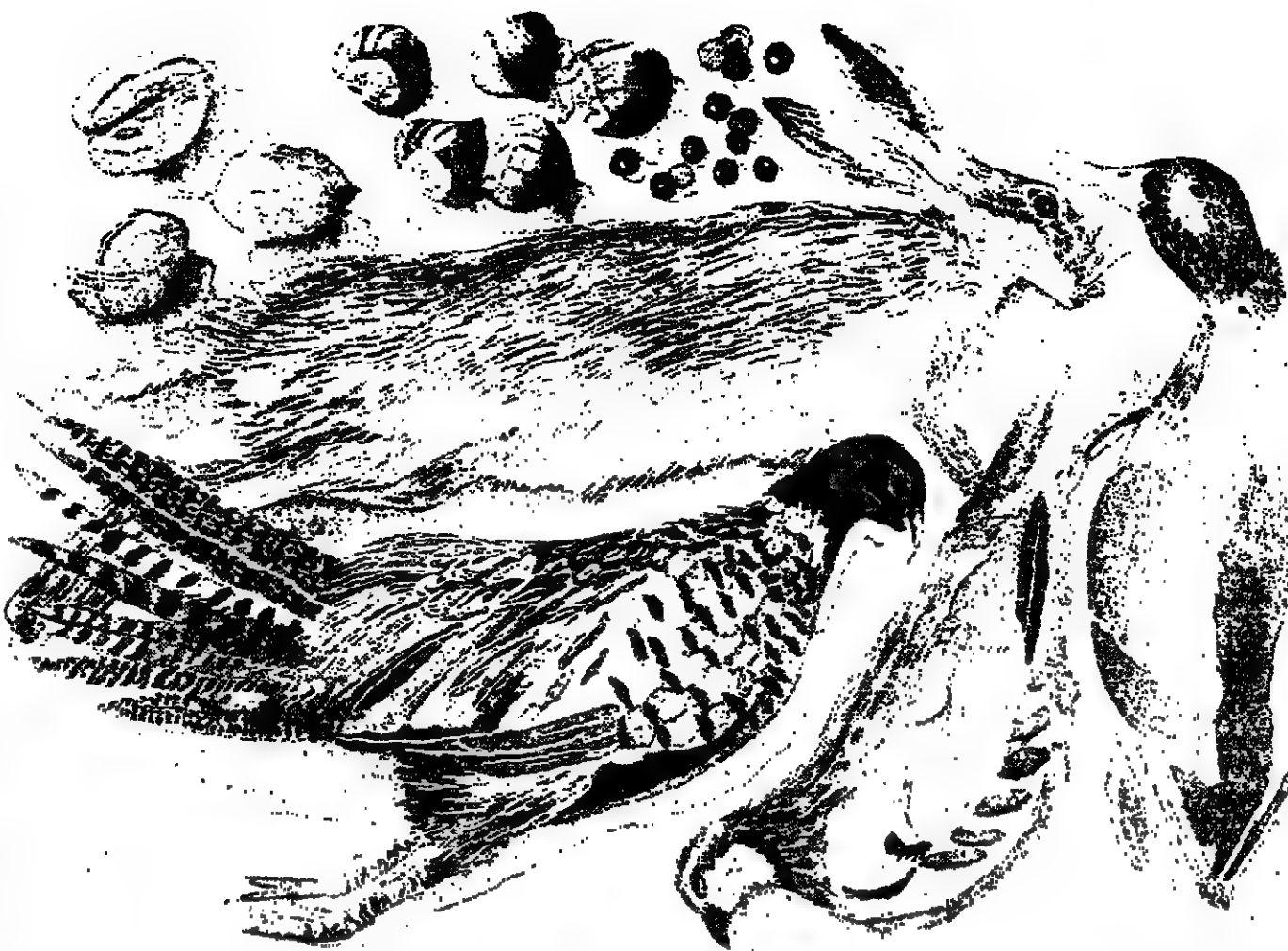
1 dessert apple, peeled and sliced

the marinade

seasoning

Slice and fry the onion until lightly browned. Add the apple slices. Chop the liver and add it with the chestnut purée. Cook together to make a rich stew, adding the marinade and letting it reduce considerably. Sieve if you wish. Season to taste and serve with the hare.

As a pasta lover, I would almost certainly use any left-over hare to make a rich, gamey sauce to serve with peppardelle, the broad, flat



pasta. You can also use pheasant, pigeon and wild duck in the same way.

Hare sauce for pasta

(Serves 4)

1lb/455g hare off the bone

1 tsp olive oil

1 slice onion

2 cloves garlic

¼ pint/280ml red wine, marinade, stock or gravy

½oz/110g bitter dessert chocolate

1oz/30g raisins, optional

1 tsp pine nuts or almonds, optional

spring or two of fresh marjoram or pinch of dried oregano

Cut up the hare into small cubes. Heat the oil, and fry the sliced onion until lightly browned. Stir in the hare, and brown it all over on a high heat. Pour in the liquid. Chop the garlic or crush it in salt, and add it to the pan. Bring to the boil, and then turn the heat down very low, allowing the mixture to simmer very gently. Add the

chocolate and let it melt into the sauce which will not taste chocolatey as a result, but will take on a certain richness. Pine nuts and raisins add interesting flavours and textures if you want to use them. Finally add the herbs and cook the sauce for about 40

minutes until the meat is tender. Taste for seasoning and serve with your favourite pasta.

'Seasonal pears, apples and chestnuts will enrich sauces and fresh walnuts add an unusual texture to game casseroles and terrines'

A slightly less liquid sauce topped with mashed potatoes will make a very good version of shepherd's pie, a gamekeeper's pie perhaps.

In October the first of the wet walnuts are available. They can

sometimes be bitter so that they work very well in this rich pie, which is adapted from a pecan pie recipe I came across in the *Williamsburg Art of Cookery*, a collection of recipes taken from the first American cookery book, printed in Williamsburg in 1742.

Roll out the pastry, and line a tart tin or china baking dish; prick the pastry all over with a fork; place a circle of greaseproof paper on the pastry, weight it down with dried beans and bake in a hot oven for 10 minutes. Remove and allow to cool. Beat the eggs with sugar, butter and syrup. When thoroughly mixed, stir in the lemon juice and grated zest. Put most of the nuts in the pie crust, saving about 2oz/50g. Pour the filling on top, and bake in the oven at gas mark 4, 175°C/350°F for 45 minutes. Ten minutes before the end, or before the filling is quite set, arrange the rest of the nuts on top of the pie and continue baking. The pie is best served warm or cold rather than straight from the oven.

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More game recipes can be found in Frances Bissell's new book *Ten Dinner Parties for Two* (Ebury Press, £5.95). You can taste her game dishes at the InterContinental Hotel, Hyde Park Corner, London W1 from October 26-November 4 in the Coffee House at lunch and dinner.

DRINK

Starry glass of America

Last week I went to Chateau Mouton-Rothschild in Bordeaux for the day, drank four different California wines, and came home without fasting a drop of Mouton. The European launch of Opus One, Mouton's joint venture wine with California's Robert Mondavi winery, was also the first large function held at the chateau since Baron Philippe de Rothschild's death in January this year.

No matter what the results of comparative tasting, California Cabernets are not better than French Cabernets but different, in the same way that Stilton differs from Roquefort. Baron Philippe was just as opposed to comparative tastings between the two wines as his daughter, Baroness Philippine de Rothschild, is now. He agreed with me that the richer, sweeter, fruitier, more alcoholic California Cabernets

always made the drier, restrained more austere chateau of Bordeaux Cabernets look wishy-washy in comparison. Yet when it comes to consuming the wine, a bottle of an introverted, under-stated Bordeaux is often far easier to drink and appreciate than the extrovert and occasionally over-done California equivalent. But everyone agrees that California wines are now of a quality which can sensibly be compared to Bordeaux.

Anyone who has visited the Opus One vineyard in California, opposite the Robert Mondavi winery at Oakville in

the heart of the Napa Valley's prime Rutherford Bench region ("the Midoc of California"), will know why this Franco-American wine is so hotly tipped. Unlike other first-class Cabernet vineyards in the Napa Valley, the vines in Opus One's 55 hectares, are planted much closer together than is usual in California, with 5,500 vines being planted to the hectare instead of the usual 1,200. Steel wires, again a Bordeaux practice, were used to train the vines. What Tim Mondavi (Robert's son) and Patrick Léon, oenologist at Mouton-Rothschild, will

commonly done in California. After tasting a glass of Robert Mondavi's delicious, buttery '85 Reserve Chardonnay (The Winery, 4 Clifton Road, W9, £11.59; La Vigneronne, 105 Old Brompton Road, SW7, £13.25), we moved on to the various stuffs of Opus One. Wisely, the best vintage, the glorious '85, was served first and its deep purple-black colour plus its misty scent and luscious, blackcurrant palate is undoubtedly the finest Opus One vintage to date, with a perfect balance between oak and fruit. It is due to arrive next month; contact Geoffrey Roberts at 19 Charlotte Street, London W1 for a list of stockists. Next came the 1984 vintage, with its perfumed, sandalwood scent and deliciously drinkable rich palate; we finished with a 1982 Opus (Majestic Wine Warehouse, 239.95; La Vigneronne, £42) - a misty bouquet led on to a firm palate. Not, I think, in the same league as the other two. I have also tasted the '83 Opus (Majestic, £39.99) with a rich perfume and luscious, velvety, blackberry palate; I rate this ahead of the '82 and probably the '84, as well.

No matter how much American wine writers talk about the "Paso Robles quality" of Opus One, or its "French savoir-faire", this wine will always be decidedly and distinctively Californian. But, as the stunning '85 demonstrates, given the Californian and French expertise, time, trouble and money spent on it, Opus One is likely always to be ahead of the rest of the California Cabernet Reserve pack.

Jane MacQuitty

WINE BUYS

● 1986 Domsine de Vieux Telegraphic André Simon already have stocks of this delicious, perfumed mouthful (£9.80); Laytons, 20 Midland Road, London NW1 (£101.20 per case).

● 1984 Millem Merlot, Vranje: cheap, and drinkable, Yugoslavian red. Waitrose (£2.25).

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Some of our techniques raise eyebrows.

Minimal pruning and high trellising, for example. Yet they suit the cool climate and extended ripening

period of the vineyards where these

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TRAVEL

مقالات من الامم

Elysium with a constitution

Costa Smeralda once belonged to the shepherds, the sun and the sea. Then came the marketing men. Michael Watkins went back to find what paradise had lost



A coach decanted a bevy of Sardinian beauties on to the Piazzetta di Porto Cervo in the miniature capital of the Costa Smeralda. None was under 70; all were whiskery. In their widow's weeds they were black as beetles, squeaking, squawking at each other, plump thighs indecorously ajar as they sipped their cappuccino. I doubt if they debated the meaning of life, but, my word, they were having a lovely time.

Which wasn't precisely what the Aga Khan and his friends had in mind in the late 1950s before it was the Costa anything-at-all. It belonged, in those days, to the shepherds, the sun and the sea. Then a document was signed formalizing the Consorzio Costa Smeralda, which announced, in essence, the recreation of Elysium. But an Elysium with a constitution: "Any drying or airing of laundry on windows, doors, roofs, terraces, gardens, or on any other place visible to the public or neighbours, is generally forbidden. Camping — specifically the erection of tents and the parking of caravans and similar — is strictly forbidden. This present rule can never be modified in the future."

Well, yes. You could see that they wanted to attract a better class of person. And it worked: the beautiful people, the bella gente, came; the great unwashed stayed away. Architects of vision were engaged: Vietti, Mastrella, Jacques Couelle. Their villas and hotels didn't seem to have been built at all; they grew, following the same crazy, irrational contours of the landscape. When a builder encountered granite, he didn't use dynamite; he embraced the obstacle, so that nature became part of the construction, the construction part of nature. Chimneys resembled sculptured ghosts, each one a separate chimeric shape. Stella Maris Church looked like a beached Moby Dick, the great white whale: a weirdly, wonderful thing, very sparse, an unlikely receptacle for El Greco's Madonna hanging there.

I first went in 1970. In September, the best month. I wish I could say I loved it, but

it is not the sort of place to evoke passion. It is too perfect for that. Architecturally, it reminds me of nouvelle cuisine: tastefully arranged while lacking in substance. Curiously bloodless, in a way. But I was happy. I watched the Aga Khan's yacht, Amaloun, tugging at her moorings; I dined with Jacques Couelle; now he did have blood — still does, living in retirement in Paris, having sold the house he built in the hills overlooking his masterpiece, the Hotel Cala di Volpe. No one actually seems to stay, to put down roots... now perhaps we're getting somewhere.

For although the rich, like the poor, are always with us, it is only on a temporary basis. They are a nomadic tribe. They have their bases, it is true — gothic castles in Argyll, faded palazzos in the Umbrian ice-cream belt — but they are inveterate colonizers, avid for conquest. Marbella one season, Montego Bay the next, Gstaad, Vill, Venice, this year, next year, sometime, but never for ever. They are possessed of a low boredom threshold. They are also, some of them — the British in particular — dedicated pioneers, drawn to erratic plumbing, mesmerized by eccentric electricity. With immaculacy comes disenchantment, so that they load up their wagons, hitting the trail to Musique; leaving in the vortex of their disillusion, what?

This is what I returned to discover, again in magical September. Marco Casati of Costa Smeralda Properties told me that 50 per cent of the original house owners have sold their properties. So the Marchese di Sanmario had moved on; but the loss was not inconsolable. Where once I had to overnight in Rome, catching the morning flight from Fiumicino to Olbia, I booked a non-stop charter service from Gatwick. Elysium had extended its frontiers; close inspection revealed patches of wear and tear in Elysium's fabric. There were one or two sulphurous murmurs about things not being quite what they were; but on balance I found this less of an indictment, more of a benediction.

Carriar was hanging in, so too Gucci, dispensing life's necessities; there was a super-



Boats in the bay: yachts and cruisers at Porto Cervo on the Costa Smeralda beside a typical white-washed Sardinian building with a crooked chimney, like a decoration on an icing cake

market, for even the natives of Elysium have to be fed. There was still no neon, no graffiti. Rule — "It is forbidden to exhibit advertising of any type". Naturally. Shops still refrained from the unseemly device of pricing goods, so that when one display announced "30 per cent off", it didn't seem too unseemly. There were still more litter-bins per square metre than anywhere west of the Moscow metro. There were still splashes of decorative blue I have noticed nowhere else: azzurro d'oltramar, the blue beyond the sea.

Looking back, I believe that a brilliant concept was betrayed by a bovine marketing policy. On paper it was soulless, precocious, snobbish. It gave me the pip. It gave a lot of people the pip, for the marketing blueprint overlooked one precious principle: that a gulf situation, however elite, is a situation to escape from. Which is how it turned out: of 100 original inmates, 50 have done a bunk. Leaving more space for a bevy of Sardinian septuagenarians, to the deserving likes of me, to an occasional charter plane from Gatwick.

Once again I was happy. If you accept the fact that it is a contrivance, then it is the least important place. And quite beautifully done. This ineffable feeling that everything on the Costa has been around for centuries instead of 10

minutes is all part of the charming deception. The Sardinian landscape is raw, savage, glorious; but when you arrive anywhere, like Calangianus or Tempio Pausania, they're uniquely unattractive towns. Timing things carefully, I had deprived myself of the Sardinia Cup Regatta and the Pro-am golf thingy. I toyed with putting \$700,000 into a tiny island they were trying to flog, but rather went off the idea when they became vague about water availability. And I met an awfully nice woman called Suzanne Ayme, a comfortable person who laughs and smokes, both at the same time. For 18 years she's run her restaurant, Rosemary's good food, no frills. When so many have left, why have you stayed? I asked. "It isn't the people," she replied. "It's Sardinia. Come, I'll show you." Past her kitchen, she led the way on to a terrace from where a view unfolded all the way to Isola Maddalena. She lit another fig, coughing cheerfully so that smoke seemed to come out of her ears; but she didn't need to say another word.

TRAVEL NOTES

Michael Watkins travelled with Magic of Sardinia Ltd, 47 Shepherd's Bush Green, London, W12 8PS. Tel: 01-743 9900. Seven nights at the Hotel Cervo in Porto Cervo, half board, including flights from Gatwick and transfers: £1,164 per person.

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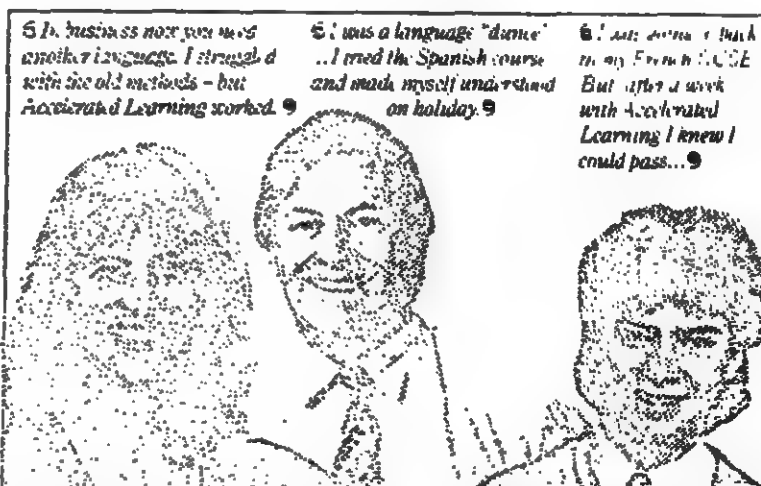
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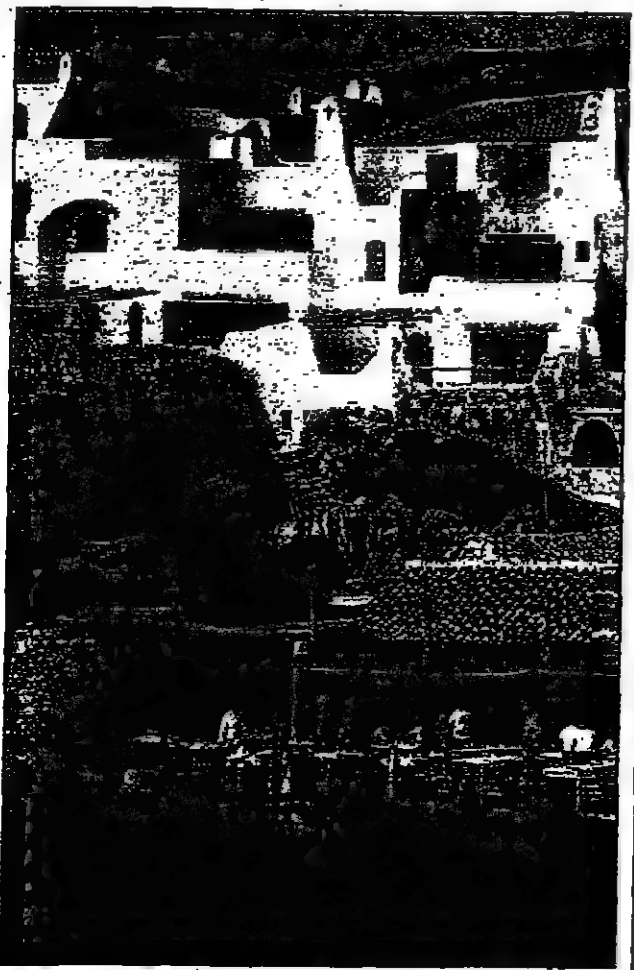
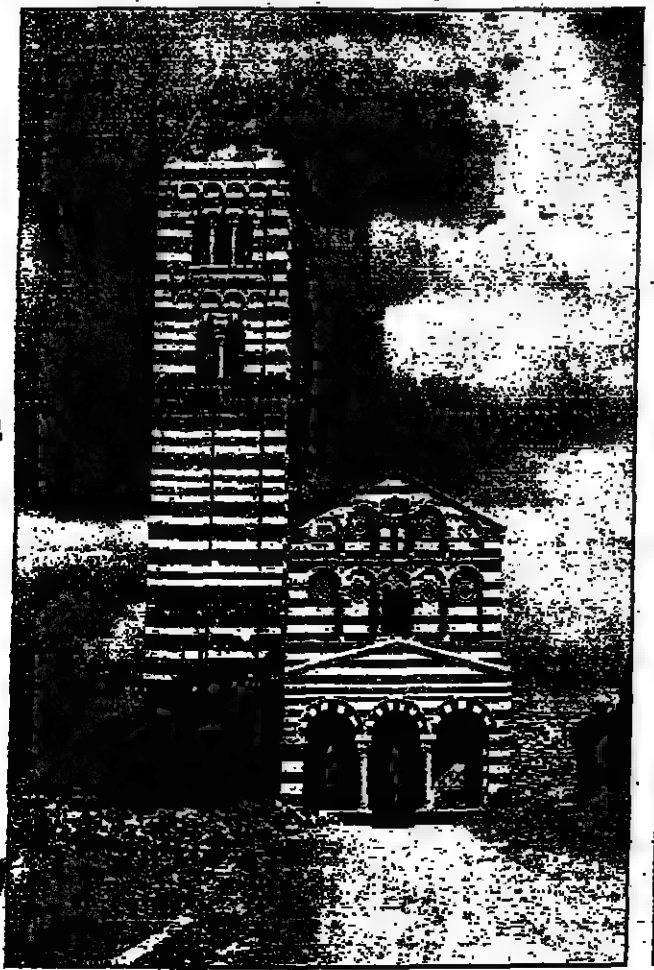
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Zebra-striped Basilica near Sassari and (right) enjoying a drink at a quayside restaurant built on the rocks

Golden girl with all the aces

BOB MARTIN



This year has been Steffi Graf's annus mirabilis. For most players the grand slam would

have been enough; Graf followed it with an Olympic gold medal. Rex Bellamy charts her phenomenal rise

Tracy Austin, part-time player and part-time television commentator, completed in both doubles events — her first appearance since 1982 — during the recent United States championships. What mattered, though, was Steffi Graf's possession of a crown Austin once seemed destined to inherit from Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova.

Austin briefly took over the No. 1 world ranking in 1980, aged 17. She was twice US champion, twice reached the semi-finals at Wimbledon, but was then afflicted by problems in the hips, back and neck. By 1983, the once bright flame of her career had been doused.

There was much the same story to tell about Andrea Jaeger at much the same age. Theirs have been the most prominent case histories often cited as examples of "burn-out". We are talking about the hazards — both physical and mental — of imposing an excess of competitive stress on growing children.

The warnings were not lost on Peter Graf, who was running a tennis school in a little town near Heidelberg, West Germany, and had a precociously talented daughter. The Austin story was coincidentally apt, because in Steffi Graf's first match as a pro-

fessional — aged 13 — she gave Austin a strenuous work-out. That was in Stuttgart, October, 1982.

Peter Graf — who is still Steffi Graf's coach and manager, though he now shares both roles with others — made sure that his adolescent prodigy had a carefully planned programme. Her zest for the game must, he insisted, be tempered by regular, refreshing breaks.

Graf also has inherent insurances against injury. She is a stronger, more gifted athlete than Austin and Jaeger. She also has a greater capacity for winning cheap points — that is, lessening the physical and mental stress by shortening the rallies.

At first she depended on her forehand for the winning shots. Now, her entire game has a cutting edge. She takes the fastest road home. For her, the baseline is a launching site for winners, rather than a base for attritional warfare.

In May, 1986, when she was a month short of her 17th birthday, I becked a hunch and went to Berlin — partly because the ambience of the Grunewald suits me, but chiefly because it seemed that, for the first time, Graf would beat Navratilova.

In their three previous matches, Navratilova had never lost more than five



Almost the complete player: Graf has a better serve than Connolly or Court, a spectacular forehand, a much improved backhand. Her game varies between the admirable and the breathtaking

games. This time she was beaten 6-2, 6-3. It was significant that Graf never lost faith in her then vulnerable backhand, which Navratilova peppered profitably to assume a 3-1 lead in the second set. Graf kept playing backhands until the cracks were repaired. The result meant that Graf had won four professional tournaments in a row (pre-

viously, she had not won any) and had beaten Evert and Navratilova for the first time. The breakthrough was completed on an afternoon when sunshine painted the Grunewald's woodland of tall trees and scattered lakes in gold — and there was a bright new aura about Graf when she came into the Press room.

We had seen the player, but knew little about the person. She seemed a nice enough lass — friendly and unaffected, the kind who enjoys romping with dogs. Her eyes sparkled as she told us about Ben, the Boxer, and how much she missed him when she was away playing tournaments.

There have been rumours that she sometimes talks to Ben on the telephone, in lieu of domestic wuff-and-tumble. Now she shares her affections with two German Shepherds. At play, the dogs tire before Graf does.

In 1986, Graf still packed schoolbooks in her luggage — mostly about biology, geography and German literature. But already tennis was giving her a wide education and she was passing the exams with honours. Chris Evert said that, mentally, Graf was the most formidable young challenger since Austin.

The 1988 Steffi Graf is almost the complete player — and so tirelessly enthusiastic in her pursuit of perfection that the "almost" may soon become slightly insulting. She has the ideal build for tennis. Her exceptional athletic talent is the basis for such fast footwork and reactions that these, in turn, lead to balanced stroke preparation (half the secret of good timing).

The forehand is still Graf's most spectacular weapon. At times she hurls herself into it with such convulsive fury, with both feet off the ground, that one expects something to break — the racket, the ball, or Graf. She covers the court so fast that she can hit that forehand from anywhere.

The backhand, much improved since a more muscular forearm widened her range of controlled pace, comes in three varieties: slice, often heavy; top-spin, producing the dip and the high bounce that are so difficult to attack; and, at rare moments of self-indulgence, a full-blooded shot, taken early and hit with top-spin.



than \$1 million a year (plus off-court earnings). She has become the youngest of French women's champions and the first German of either sex to win Australian and US championships. She led West Germany to its first triumph in the world team championship.

This year, conceding only two sets in 27 matches, Graf became the fourth woman to complete a grand slam of the four major singles championships (she should become the first to do it twice) and spiced the dish with an Olympic gold medal. She was beaten only twice last year, by Navratilova, and only twice this year, by Gabriela Sabatini.

At the age of 19 years and four months, Graf reminds me of that great squash player, Heather McKay, who reached the top and then — by practising with men — continued to improve. Graf's sparring partner, Pavel Slozil, has an enviable but tiring job.

Graf still has plenty of incentive. A second grand slam would, for a woman, be unique. But Graf's tally of five grand slam singles titles is a modest haul when compared with the records of Court, Helen Wills Moody, Evert, Navratilova, Billie Jean King, Suzanne Lenglen and Connolly — whose career was cruelly brief.

One doubts if Graf will stay in the game long enough to rise to the top of that heap. She is the best of her generation — and will be better. But her appetite for tennis may eventually be sated. And professional tennis is a jungle at the slightest hint of weakness, some predator will pounce.

It could be Sabatini, or Natalia Zvereva, or Mary Joe Fernandez, or some comparatively unknown child such as Monika Seles of Yugoslavia. In 1989, it could even be Navratilova, but I doubt it. The immediate future is a much younger dog fancier. Steffi Graf.

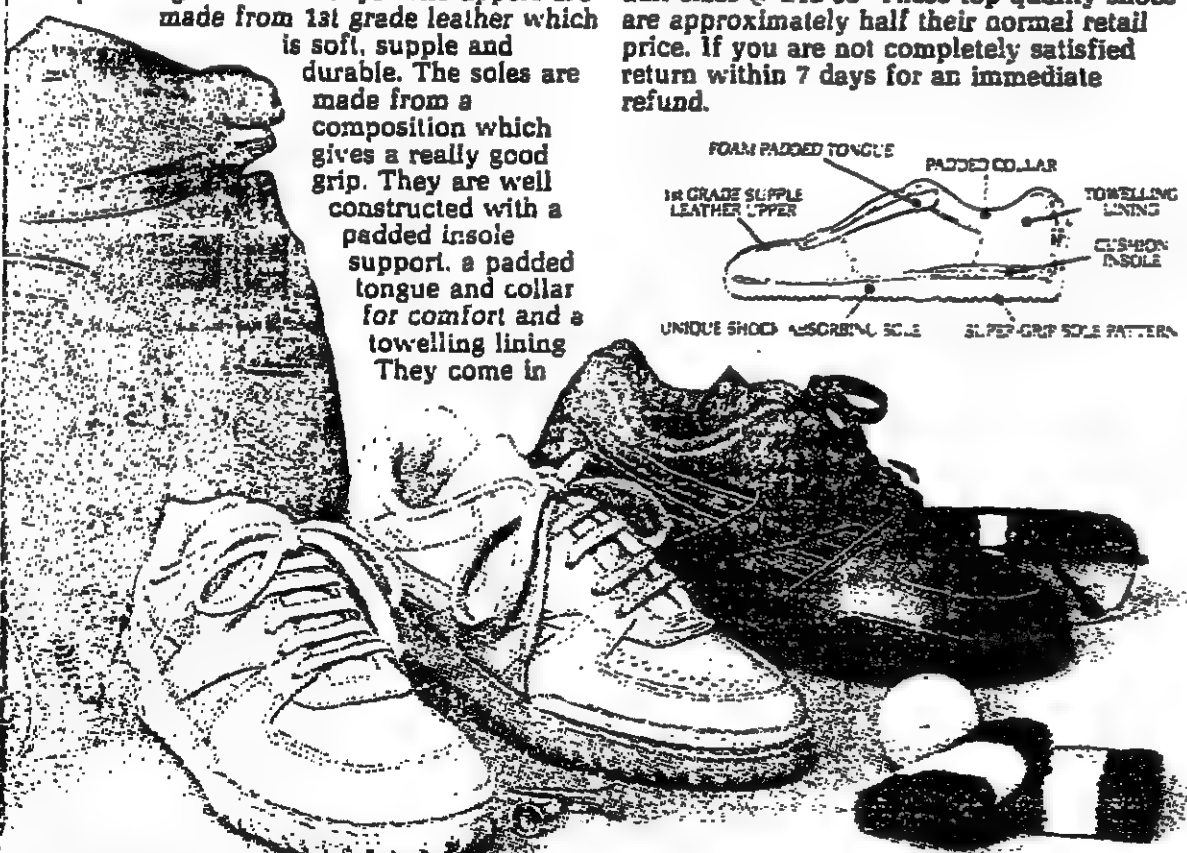
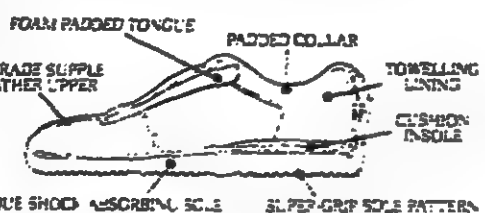
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SPORTS BOOK OF THE WEEK

The sacking of a manager

Football managers are sacked so often that it is easy to overlook the anguish for the men involved.

David Hay, who last year became the first manager to be dismissed by Celtic, provides a graphic account of how the battles with the board of directors over money reached their bitter and inevitable climax, and the shattering effect that the experience had on him and his family

It is hard to look back without bitterness at the happenings of that May day in 1987 when I became the first manager of Celtic to be sacked. My bitterness is not directed at the club, nor at the players, and certainly not at the supporters, but at the men who decided that because I had finished second best to Rangers I had to go.

I will never be able to forgive the directors who made up their minds that I should be sacrificed, largely because for months during the last season I spent as Celtic manager constantly putting myself into the firing line in an effort to protect them.

They were the men who would not take up the challenge when Rangers threw down the gauntlet. They were the men who tried to scoff at Graeme Souness and his high-spending, high-profile regime, which eventually brought Rangers the title. They were the men who told me repeatedly that there was no money available to buy players after a season when we had won the premier division and had average home gates of close to 30,000. They were the men who sat in the Celtic Park boardroom sneering at Rangers while we were ahead of them in the title race and saying smugly that no team could buy success.

What they appeared to want was success on a shoestring. If Cups and Leagues could be won and supporters kept happy without too much cash being invested in the club, then everyone would have been happy. Any major rows I had with the directors came when I was asking them for money. Whether that money was to buy players, or to give players better contracts, or, on one occasion, to get a rise in salary for myself, that was usually a signal to the directors to switch off. Money coming into the club was fine — but, if possible, they wanted that cash to stay there. Every penny was a prisoner!

I still wonder why all the directors did not meet me face to face when I was told that I was no longer required by the club. Of course, they had met earlier and I had been the main part of the business they discussed.

The chairman blurted out the board decision and also dissociated himself from it. He told me: "We have decided that we must get rid of you as a manager of the club. You can either resign or you can be sacked but we would like you to resign. There will be compensation from the club."

Then he told me that he, himself, had been against dismissing me and that the decision had been a majority one by the board of directors. He also told me that I had been "too nice" as a manager. In some ways, that was one of the most wounding remarks of all, although I don't think Jack McGinn meant it to be.

Anyhow, he reiterated that the club would prefer it if I resigned and I knew what that was. In almost one hundred years Celtic had never fired any of their managers. One or two may have left after problems with the board. There had been suggestions that some may have been asked to step aside — or even pushed aside — but no one had ever been sacked. They were proud of that. They wanted to keep it that way. They would have liked to embark on their centenary season keeping that record intact, keeping their reputation unsullied.

But even suffering from shock, even while I was still trying to grasp the fact that they were axing me from the job I loved, I was determined that people would know what they had done. It would have suited them to hide behind a resignation announcement. There would still have been no embarrassment for them. They would have been protected from any kind of criticism. Their hands would have been clean. Or publicly clean at any rate, which is really all they seemed concerned about. At a time when they were getting rid of me, they were still more concerned about their own public image as a board rather than what they were doing to me.

I refused to take that way out even though Jack McGinn asked me several times during the conversation. And I asked him

what kind of compensation the club was talking about, what figure it had in mind. He couldn't tell me. So when I left the Park he promised to call me in two hours and give me details of a pay-off figure. He did call to say that he had not had a chance to meet the other directors.

By that time Billy McNeill had been approached and appointed as the public as the new manager of Celtic. Yet earlier Jack McGinn had told me that while Billy was an obvious candidate for the job no approaches had been made. That is the way of the game these days but I was still left with a nasty taste in my mouth as the way they treated me in the end.

After all, I'd just completed the signing of the Manchester City and Republic of Ireland centre-half Mick McCarthy, for a club record fee of around £450,000. A few months earlier, around the turn of the year, the directors had boosted my salary from £33,000 a year to £45,000. Neither of these events would suggest that they had lost faith in me as a manager, or that they had decided that I was not up to handling the job.

If you don't trust a manager, then you don't allow him to spend a great deal of money on a player only he has judged. Nor do you hand anyone a massive pay rise just a few months before you decide to toss him out of the door. None of it made much sense and I spent a lot of time thinking over the strange ways they had behaved.

When I got home, there was the feeling of initial shock; then, as that began to wear away, there was just a deadness. At times, there was no way I could ease my way out of that feeling of despair.

Any sacking comes as a shock, whether you are a football manager or an ordinary guy working in a factory. Suddenly, you are waking up in the morning with no job to go to. The difference when you are a football manager is that you are in the public eye and so there is no real escape from what has happened to you. No matter where you go, people know you have just been sacked. They know you are out of work and while you put a brave face on things you hurt inside whenever you have to go out of the house.

You hurt at home, too, because you have a family and they have to live with what has happened to you. It isn't easy for them either. I think that those dreadful weeks following the sacking were the worst weeks we have ever known as a family. Initially, I think that myself and my wife Catherine were more devastated by what had happened than we had been by the death of my mother and her father. Over the long term, that isn't the case. It could never be the case. But in the immediate aftermath the impact the whole thing had on us was enormous. We talked about about the shattering effect it had on us since. We were drained emotionally.

At first, I didn't want to leave the house. It was as if there had been a death in the family and you just don't want to meet anyone who will start to talk about it. I think it hit me so hard because it was so unexpected and also because it was not the way that you expected Celtic to treat anyone. I did not expect it from a club with the traditions of Celtic. I doubt if any of the directors are proud of the way it was handled. But that was little consolation to me as I sat at home for week after dreary week worrying about what my children were having to face at school, and worrying over what kind of compensation the club would eventually give me.

I'm glad, though, that I didn't worry too much over that because not surprisingly it was a lot less than I expected!

It was several months before I received any settlement from the club and it was not the kind of golden handshake which was going to turn me into a rich man. It arrived as a cheque for £24,000. In the last season I had with the club, it made a profit of £450,000. Deep down I knew that I wasn't going to get the kind of giant pay-off that so many managers seem to off that when they are sacked. Perhaps if I had gone quietly and

resigned as they wanted me to do, I would have had more. But I had my pride. I wasn't going to allow them to whitewash the whole incident and come out of it looking like good and generous men. I wanted people to realize how they had behaved, and I knew that as far as many supporters of the club were concerned, they would see them behaving exactly in the way they expected them to do.

I don't suppose they expected any more. At the time, no kind of cheque was going to take away the pain I felt. It seemed to hit me every morning in life. I would wake up and realise that I had no place to go and no job to do. It's hard to explain just how you feel.

Suddenly you realize that you won't be going into Celtic Park any longer. That you won't be going to the training ground at Barrowfield. That there are no games to go to, on a Saturday where you are involved, except maybe as a kind of disinterested spectator. You know that you have to reshape your life, that you have to fill your time, but at first there is nothing that you want to do. It becomes a very deep-rooted feeling and it was maybe six months before I could say genuinely that I had been able to push it to the back of my mind. It took that long before I could start to go out of the house without having any feelings of worry, without having any feelings that people would be stopping to ask how I was.

That feeling of desolation has gone now. It took maybe six months to leave me, but while I don't brood over the sacking any more I do still remember what happened. It can never be com-

pletely wiped from my mind. That's impossible. I'll never be able to erase the memories of that day in May, or the aftermath. The hurt is still there, still with me, though it has been buried a little. The pain remains, too, because of the way I was treated by a board of directors I had tried to protect from criticism.

You can call it hurt, you can call it bitterness. You can call it what the hell you like — I would never allow myself to have anything to do with these people again. I would never dream of working with them again. No matter how much help I might need in the future, I would never take anything from them. I could not do it. My pride would not let me have any kind of dealings with people who treated me so badly. And they did treat me badly.

They allowed me to go on record as saying that we would only move into the transfer market for the right kind of players when all the time they were telling me that there was not a penny piece to be spent on players. If they had given me the money I asked for and let me buy the players I wanted, then we would have kept the premier division championship and Rangers would have had to sit down and think again after spending all that money.

They refused on numerous occasions to release money and there was one notable occasion when the chairman told the *Glasgow Herald* that if I was going to bid for Joe McLaughlin or Pat Nevin of Chelsea, then the money would have to come out of my own pocket. It was a ridiculous

statement to make and yet I didn't come out and say anything in reply which might damage the club or bring criticism of the board. The pay-off for being silent was the sack. The pay-off for protecting them was to be thrown out of the door when they realized that if I was sacrificed they would be able to save themselves from further criticism.

It must be on record — certainly it should be on record — from board meetings how often I pleaded with them to strengthen the team. I asked them repeatedly to give me the kind of money needed. I didn't ask for the millions that Graeme Souness had been given by his directors — I asked for a lot less. Yet, initially, they insisted that they had no money, that the club could not afford to spend on players.

When they finally took the blinkers off, they were only ready to hand out a fraction of the cash Rangers had been spending to win the title and the Skol Cup.

The job of managing Celtic is a difficult one — and I had taken over in particularly difficult circumstances. Billy McNeill, now back as the boss at Parkhead, left the club in the summer of 1983. Strangely enough, that departure was over a disagreement with the directors...

Until recently, too, the club has to some extent played on this loyalty. It has relied on this strong feeling for the club to hold on to star players — and keep them on low salaries.

Jack Stein was one major example of a man who must have received many offers which could have made him among the highest paid managers in the whole of Britain but who turned his back on

them. No matter what the temptation, he refused to contemplate any move until finally he left the club himself, moved on to be boss at Leeds United, and finally took over as Scotland's international team manager.

Then there was Billy McNeill himself who reached the point of no return over money when he was there in his first spell as manager. That encouraged him to leave and head for Manchester City and then Aston Villa before returning.

For too long, the club had relied on the supporters to provide pay days for the top players. The directors appeared to think that when they granted permission for a testimonial match the money was coming from the club. It wasn't! It was coming from the same people who keep the club going week after week, through the good days and the bad, through thick and thin, from success to failure and back again — the supporters!

Testimonials cost the club nothing. It was able to keep players happy and contented on the cheap. That suited Celtic then — but now I believe I helped change that attitude.

While I was there top contracts were on offer to the international strikers, Brian McClair and Mo Johnston. These two could have earned something like £80,000 a year if they had accepted the deals offered to them. That was the kind of cash I persuaded the directors to make available in a bid to keep top players with Celtic. Obviously that was not simply a basic wage and it involved signing-on fees spread over the duration of the contracts. But it was still major league money and it was the first

'I didn't want to leave the house. It was as if there had been a death in the family'

time in the history of the club that it had been willing to enter the realms of salaries similar to those being paid to top players in England. I'm saying that I persuaded them, but I admit that I had more than a little help from, of all places, Ibrox. What happened there under Graeme Souness revolutionized Scottish football. Celtic had to come into line and I was able to talk them round.

During my spell as a player I'm sure that most of the players who left the club, including myself, would have stayed on if the money on offer had been right. I'm not suggesting that the club should have paid salaries then to equal the top money paid by the leading English clubs — but reasonable increases would have kept us happy.

Now, though, maybe they have got things right and I would like to think that perhaps I was instrumental in getting them to see the light. Top players are being paid what they are worth. That's why, I'm sure, you have seen Frank McAvennie come from West Ham to Celtic Park, and why players such as Paul McStay and Peter Grant have signed long-term contracts with the club. If a team can afford to pay top wages, then the players should get the cash.

I would think that problems will arise less and less in the future regarding players and contracts.

It was not easy to talk them round to offering good contracts and maybe it was because I always wanted that for the players that Jack McGinn decided I was "too nice" to be a manager. Maybe they thought I was "too nice" to the players because I looked for better conditions for them: bigger basic wages; bigger signing-on fees; bigger bonuses.

I demanded all of these things for the Celtic players because players at other clubs were getting them and I did not think it was right that Celtic players should be left behind as some kind of second-class citizens.

Basically if I was "too nice" to anyone, it was to the directors. They were the people I should not have been nice to. They are the people I should have been harder with. They are the people I should not have tried so hard to protect from criticism.

In the end they stabbed me in the back. They didn't protect me when the going was tough — they looked after themselves. I was on my own, out of a job and wondering why the hell I'd spent time being nice to a board which finally fired me. I put off too much time listening to them when I would have been better spending that time doing something else. Anything else!

When Jack McGinn said I was "too nice", he perhaps meant that as a compliment. But that is not the way I looked at the remark. It might well become an epitaph for my managerial career. Being "too nice" suggests being too soft. I don't think that I was.

Perhaps I was a little more laid-back in my approach to the job than other managers. That didn't mean I cared any less than other people. It was just the way I wanted to do the job, the way I saw the job. Perhaps there were times when I was too considerate — to players and to directors. But I can't remember hearing that "too nice" remark coming up when I won the Scottish Cup and then the premier division championship in successive seasons.

I'll allow Jack McGinn this — I was possibly too sympathetic to other people's points of view, the chairman's included. If I had my time over again as manager of Celtic, I would be more selfish. Much more selfish, because I reckon that is the only way you can be a really successful manager.

The blow I received from Celtic when they sacked me has been the hardest for me to overcome. I battled through injuries, through eye problems which ended my career and could have led to me losing my sight. But to be told by Celtic, a club I love, that I was no longer wanted hurt deeply.

● This is an extract from *Paradise Lost* by David Hay with Ken Gallacher (Mainstream Publishing, £5.95)



'I would not allow myself to have anything to do with these people again'

Promising Al Hareb to complete major double for West Ilsley team

By Mazarin
(Michael Phillips)

The famous West Ilsley stables can leave their mark on the season by capturing the day's main prizes at Doncaster and Newbury with Al Hareb (3.45) and Emmanon (3.0).

At Ascot a fortnight ago, I was smitten by the way that Al Hareb won the Hyperion Stakes over seven furlongs. On the strength of that performance he is now my nap to win the William Hill Futurity over a furlong further at Doncaster.

At Ascot, Al Hareb, wearing blinkers for the first time, came clean away from Kalamaki who, in his previous race, had run Zalzali to a neck at Goodwood, albeit when receiving 4lb from him.

That suggests Al Hareb has the beating of Zalzali now, Zalzali's chance of giving trainer Henry Cecil his seventh strike in the race, following the victories of Approval, Take Your Place, Hello, Georgeous, Dunbeath, Lanfranco and Reference Point, is not particularly strong, more especially since the recent failure of his stable companions at Newmarket and Newbury.

On form, both Polar Run and Mon Tresor stand a better chance of beating Al Hareb. Polar Run's only defeat was at the hands of High Estate at Sandown and that was no disgrace.

What he seems certain to do, on breeding, is see the trip out, which is more than can be said for the Middle Park Stakes winner Mon Tresor, who does not have the pedigree of a miler.

Also, in his only race so far beyond six furlongs Mon Tresor was beaten by Citadine. For all that, Mon Tresor still seems bound to give a good account of himself.



Al Hareb: sporting chance of Doncaster double as his consistent record would clearly indicate.

By dead-heat with Prince Of Dance in the Dewhurst, Scenic reminded me not to overlook Barry Hills' runners in this sort of race even though the form book might say otherwise.

Yet West Ilsley has a key line on Child Of The Mist, the Manton representative, this time through Al Hareb's galloping companion Nashwan.

The Ayr winner Future Glory has a big reputation in Malton. But after Ascot I will be disappointed if he, or any of the other runners, can match Al Hareb's power in the final furlong.

No matter how Zalzali fares, Henry Cecil can still maintain his 100 per cent strike rate in sellers by winning the first race on the card with Mother Hen.

Having gone so close to winning at Ascot last time, Larston Gale is taken to go one better in the Don Reynolds Nursery.

She could easily trigger off a double for her jockey Allan Mackay, who has a sporting chance of winning the Solagas Energy Savers Stakes as well on that consistent mare Softly Spoken.

Finally, as far as Doncaster is concerned, I have a big tip from Newmarket for Michael Stone's choicely-bred newcomer Mythyar in the Variety Club Sunshine Coach-Maiden Stakes.

At Newbury, Emmanon, who won the Futurity a year ago, should only have to run as well as he did when finishing third in the French Derby to take the St Simon Stakes, especially now that Sheriff's Star and Assatis have both dropped by the wayside.

Considering how long he has been off the course I thought that Emmanon ran rather well to finish eighth in the Arc three weeks ago. In contrast, Glacial Storm was disappointing yet again in Paris.

Lucky Song looks the right type to win the Radley Stakes while, in the absence of Indian Queen, I must fancy DeVizes to win the Thames Valley Eggs Handicap having seen him assert his authority in a similar race at Haydock recently.

On the jumping front at Stratford, I expect Peter Scudamore to land a double on Espy (2.0) and My Cap Of Tea (4.30) with Tom Morgan doing likewise on Angharad (3.0) and Denny Walsh (3.30). Thanks to Bezzantford (2.15) and Raper Thurst (2.45), Mark Dwyer should also be in the money at Stratford where Floyd is taken to win his principal rival Hill's Pageant in the Teroson Hurdle following that gutsy win at Kempton a week ago.

On the flat, the money is in the hands of the Don Reynolds Nursery. Larston Gale is taken to go one better in the Don Reynolds Nursery.

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On the flat, the money is in the hands of the Don Reynolds Nursery. Larston Gale is taken to go one better in the Don Reynolds Nursery.

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THE TIMES SATURDAY OCTOBER 22 1988

DONCASTER

By Mazarin

2.10 Mother Hen.
2.40 London Gale.
3.10 My Lamb.
3.45 AL HAREB (nap).
4.15 Hopping Around.
4.45 Softly Spoken.
5.15 Mythyar.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

2.10 Mother Hen.
2.40 London Gale.
3.10 National Service.
3.45 Mon Tresor.
4.15 Pretty Thing.
4.45 Bridzincote.
5.15 MYTHYAR (nap).

By Michael Seely

3.45 AL HAREB (nap). 5.15 Mythyar.

Going: good to firm (round course); good (straight)

Draw: 51-71, high numbers best

2.10 ELMWOOD DESIGN SELLING STAKES (23,840: 1m 40) (19 runners)

1	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	1	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
2	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	2	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
3	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	3	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
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5	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	5	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
6	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	6	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
7	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	7	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
8	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	8	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
9	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	9	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
10	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	10	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
11	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	11	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
12	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	12	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
13	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	13	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
14	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	14	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
15	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	15	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
16	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	16	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
17	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	17	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
18	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	18	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
19	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	19	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
20	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	20	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)

2.40 DON REYNOLDS NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £3,840: 7f) (21 runners)

1	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	1	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
2	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	2	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
3	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	3	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
4	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	4	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
5	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	5	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
6	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	6	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
7	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	7	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
8	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	8	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
9	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	9	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
10	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	10	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
11	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	11	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
12	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	12	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
13	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	13	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
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16	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	16	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
17	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	17	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
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19	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	19	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
20	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	20	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)

3.10 DONCASTER EBF HANDICAP (Limited handicap: £21,382: 1m 21)

1	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	1	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
2	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	2	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
3	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	3	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
4	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	4	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
5	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	5	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
6	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	6	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
7	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	7	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
8	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	8	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
9	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	9	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
10	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	10	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
11	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	11	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
12	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	12	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)
13	1101-003	WESSEX 16 (D.F.S.) (P. J. King 5-10-0)	13	1101-003	

Chariot racing — British style

PLANETARY FURNACE, MURDOCK

The line of those lovely hills forms a wrinkle on the agricultural tablecloth which stretches from the Welsh hills to the Cotswolds. From either of these, the noble profile is unmistakable.

Iain Liddell

PLANETARY FURNACE, MURDOCK

OUT & ABOUT

Upwardly aspired the clothiers

There are times when a person — this person anyway — simply has to get up and go off on a church-crawl of some sort. Feeling in a vaguely Perpendicular mood, I headed for Suffolk to take in a pair of famous beauties which I knew only from pictures. Long Melford and Lavenham, conveniently close together, are remarkable even by the standards of church-rich Suffolk. They might not add up to an epic church-crawl, but they are certainly sufficient for a short, late-autumn day.

Long Melford and Lavenham are both "wool churches", though "cloth churches" would be more accurate — they were built by rich clothiers. Signs of old wealth and modern prosperity lie all around both these noble churches. Long Melford is a small town which lives up to its name, stretching for nearly a mile along its main street. The thing to do is to park near the bottom end and walk in. That way you will see some good buildings along the way, and encounter the church as the climax to the town, an exclamation mark at the end of a long sentence.

Long Melford church is spectacularly sited, at the head of Melford Green, a wide expanse of rough, sloping, undomesticated grass. At one

Long Melford and Lavenham give Nigel Andrew an excuse for a church-crawl

side the turrets of the Elizabethan Melford Hall rise behind a mellow brick wall, and at its height, mostly hidden behind the over-restored Trinity Hospital (also Elizabethan), stands the church. Little is visible but the tower, as you approach up a narrow little road. So, when you reach the churchyard gate — "Consecrated Ground — No Dogs Please" (Bravo!) — the great building breaks into view with dramatic suddenness. It is a memorable moment, spoilt only slightly by some temporary scaffolding amidships.

After the first thrill has worn off, you realize that there is something slightly wrong with this church. Those wealthy clothiers simply didn't know when to stop. Not content with creating a stunning nave and chancel in the most upwardly-aspiring "house of glass" style, they had to keep adding chapels and experimenting with the

windows, until the rhythm of the building was seriously compromised. The lady chapel — an outlandish extravagance in a parish church — seems to have been tacked on with as little thought for the main building as the average home extension.

Inscriptions run all round the outside of the clerestory, enjoining us to "Pray for ye sowles" of the generous clothiers, and inside they and their families are immortalized in stained glass, all kneeling, some with the parted hands and fixed stares of people in shock. Perhaps they have just noticed the prominent souvenir stall, which, along with ranks of devotional aids and a big carboy to encourage donations, occupies much of the West end.

The interior of Long Melford is lofty, spacious and still numinous. There were very few visitors when I was there, and I was free to wander at leisure, using the handsome guidebook. Like all such productions today, it is at pains to remind us that the church is a vital centre of Christian worship, not just an old building. There are, of course, visitors who would not be too bothered if the place was used exclusively by Satanists, provided they maintained it scrupulously. Or not used at



Perfect afternoon: taking a tea-break in East Anglia, beside the picturesque village of Long Melford with its mile-long main street

all: there is surprisingly little difference between a "redundant" church and one still in use, and what difference there is can be to the benefit of the unused building.

However, the Church of England is doing a fine job by Long Melford, and an equally fine one by Lavenham. This church, from the outside a shorter, smaller, less imposing but more unified building than its long sister, has an entirely different feel. The difference is largely the result

of tourist pressure. Even on the grey autumnal day when I visited, the place was swarming. Dogs charged about the graveyard — no prohibition here, alas — and a steady stream of visitors wandered in and out through the shockingly white, recently restored porch.

Lavenham is a very fine and beautiful church, spoiled only by some hideous stained glass — notably the eye-frazzling East window — and a ghastly Victorian reredos. Souvenir

stall and exhortatory carboys at Long Melford, and in addition quantities of chrysanthemums. There is something a little too smart, clean-cut and self-conscious about the interior — and a good deal too loud with visitors' appreciative exclamations: their favourite feature seems to be the East window.

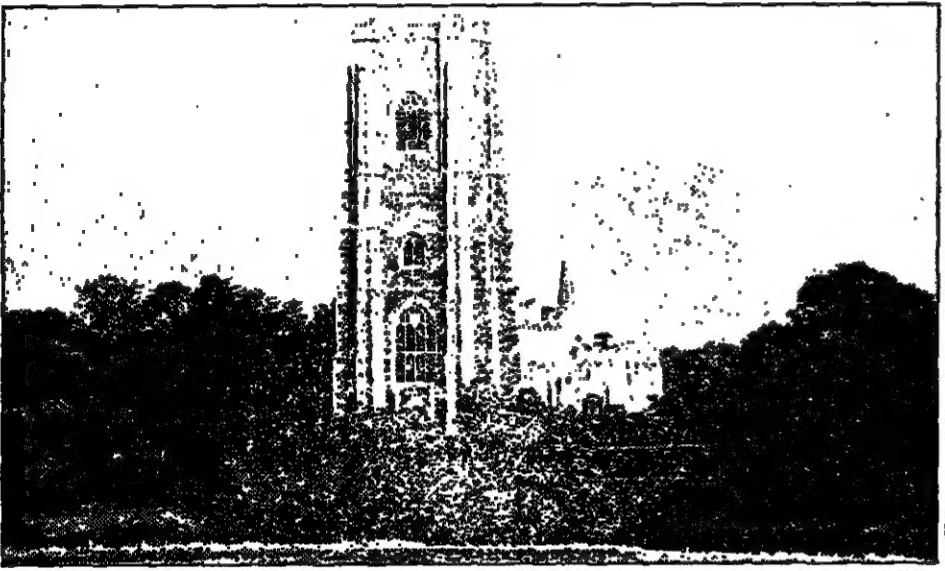
But there are enough wonders in Lavenham church to overcome all this — some of the greatest woodcarving you

are ever likely to see, a charming set of misericords, and such quaint details as the tiny brass for the baby Crompton d'Ewes, who floats off to eternity like a world-weary fish.

Lavenham itself, the afternoon tea capital of East Anglia, is so extravagantly picturesque that it seems more like a film set than a town. The buildings divide into pretty, prettier, prettiest, and old, older, oldest. It is the dream of Old England preserved in the

glutinous sap of tourism — an enchanted museum.

Lavenham church, too, is like that — but not quite. If you go back after it has closed its doors, and spend a while quietly contemplating that lovely exterior, it is still possible to detect a special resonance. It is something that has come down to us from those pious clothiers of the 15th century, and might yet outlive even the busy curiosity of the 20th century's tourists.



Pull of the Perpendicular: the view over the fields to Lavenham church, Suffolk

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THE TIMES

LONDON TRANSPORT MUSEUM SPECIAL EVENT: To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the introduction of the '38 stock Underground trains, a scale model of a 111 car set will be run on 7 1/4 track, with rides for visitors.
London Transport Museum, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-379 6344). Today, tomorrow, 10am-6pm, last admission 5.15pm. Adult £2.40, child 5-15 £1.10, under-15s free.

FIFTH INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND INSTRUMENT FAIR: Specialist fair catering for an increasing number of collectors, with more than 50 exhibitors from Britain, Holland and the United States selling antique instruments — from sextants to stethoscopes — related objects and books. Pass range from £20 to £20,000.
Portman Hotel, Portman Square, London W1 (01-486 5844). Tomorrow 10am-5pm. Admission £2.
MEDIEVAL DOVER: The order of the Black Prince — Dover's own band of medieval knights and soldiers — gives displays of archery and skill at arms.
Dover Castle, Dover, Kent (0304 201628). Tomorrow 11am-4pm. Adult £2.20, child £1.10.
STORM WALK: Tour of Kensington Gardens with Garry Miller from the Royal Parks to survey last year's storm damage and see how

a gardener and artist have responded.
Natural History Museum, main entrance, Cromwell Road, London SW7. Today 2pm prompt. Tour lasts approximately 1 1/2 hours.

MID-KENT TOY COLLECTORS FAIR: Opportunity to buy, sell, or swap Dinky, Corgi, Matchbox and other miniatures. Also Meccano, Hoby trains, tinplate, dolls, kits, books. Agricultural Hall, Maidstone, Kent. Today 9am-4pm. Admission 50p.



AUTUMN CELEBRATION: Popular annual event attended by vintage tractor ploughing enthusiasts, horse and horsemen. Also donkeys in harness plus demonstrations of threshing, cider pressing, hurdle, stick, rug, basket and bellow-making.
Refreshments.
Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton,

OUTINGS

Chichester, Sussex: (02438 348). Today tomorrow, 11am-4pm. Adult £2.20, child £1.10.

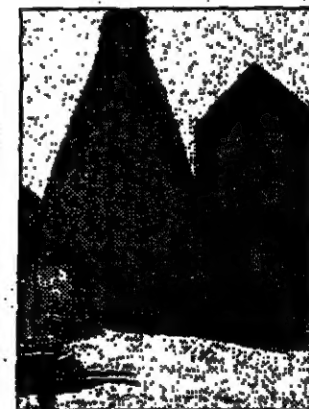
ALEXANDRA PALACE EXHIBITIONS: To this weekend, London Woodworkers' show, with a large display of woodcraft from hand-made toys to bespoke furniture, demonstrations, award winning competition entries and trade stand. And the Knitting and Stitching show, with all aspects of needlecraft



displayed and for sale, demonstrations and visiting personalities.
Alexandra Palace, Wood Green, London N22 (01-883 6477). Woodworkers' show: Great Hall, today 10am-6pm, tomorrow 10am-5pm. Adult £3.75, child £1.50. Knitting and

Stitching: West Hall, today, tomorrow 10am-6pm, admission £3.80.

BLISTS HILL BY GASLIGHT: Once-a-year opportunity to visit the award-winning museum with its Victorian "town", at night. All the streets lit and exhibits fully working plus bands, puppets, street entertainers. Traditional hot food and drink at the licensed inn. Grand fireworks display at 8pm.
Blists Hill, Ironbridge Gorge



Museum, Ironbridge, Telford, Shropshire (095245 3522). Tomorrow 6-9.30pm. Adult £3.75, child £2.75.

FOCUS ON THE HORNIMAN: One of the free Saturday afternoon autumn lectures staged to celebrate the centenary of the first public opening of the Surrey House Museum. Today,

Keith Nieldin, keeper of ethnography, gives a talk with colour slides: "Peoples of the Rainforest: The Horniman expedition to Korup, West Cameroon". Tomorrow, a series of boomerang throwing competitions using the implements made by children and families at the museum.

Horniman Museum, London Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 (01-689 2339). Lecture today 3.30pm. Free. Boomerang event tomorrow Blair Park, West Dulwich from 11am. Free.

CHILDREN'S ANTIQUE FURNITURE EXHIBITION: Rare collection of children's furniture from the 17th to the early 20th century — much of it for sale. Cradles, high chairs, samplers, silver rattles, rocking horse, sledges, and other small collectables.
Vannock Gallery, Antiques Arcade, 22 Richmond Hill, Richmond (01-940-2035). Until Christmas Eve, Tues-Sat (excluding Wed) 10.30am-5.30pm, Sun 2-5.30pm.

CHATHAM BOAT JUMBLE: All manner of boats and boating items for sale. Dockyard and museum galleries open as usual. Refreshments.
Chatham Historic Dockyard, Chatham, Kent (0634 812551). Tomorrow 10am-6pm. Adult £1.75, child £1.

Judy Froshang

COLLECTING

No cads among the tea caddies

"I don't understand why a box like this for keeping tea in should be called a caddy," said the owner. "It was used to have one to carry his clubs around for him when he could afford such luxuries."

"You're confusing caddy with caddy," said the valuer. "Different word entirely. Caddy is derived from the Malay 'kati' — a unit of weight, roughly one and one-fifth pounds — but it doesn't seem to have been used to describe a domestic container for tea until about 1780. Until then, it was called a tea-chest."

"When did we start drinking the stuff?"

"It was still a novelty in 1660, when Pepys first tried it. For some years it was drunk mainly in the coffee houses, but by 1689 it had become sufficiently domesticated for the East India Company to import it direct from China. It was sold by apothecaries and china dealers for anything between 12 shillings and £3 a pound. Because of the company's monopoly and the taxes imposed, tea continued to be so expensive that a brisk trade was done both in smuggling and providing special containers called caddies. The first ones were small, globular pots of Chinese porcelain which were soon imitated by

English silversmiths and were themselves so valuable that they were kept in wooden tea-chests."

"What was to stop someone pinching the chest complete with contents?"

"Thefts of caddies were very common. The precautions were taken against thieving servants rather than burglars. Tea was popular among the working classes, who drank it daily at six shillings a pound."

"Are any of these silver caddies around now, or did they all get burglarized and melted down?"

"Early ones have survived, some of them suitably embellished with chinoiserie subjects, but they're for the really rich collector. Most were quite plain with only engraved coats of arms by way of decoration."

"Still pretty pricey for the likes of me, though?"

"A plain oval one with moulded borders and stepped domed cover with urn finial, made by Samuel Taylor in 1746, was sold by Christie's in March for £1,000. From the 1730s, silver caddies were made in pairs and in sets of three, some with elaborate rococo decoration. That went out of fashion in the late-18th century, to be replaced by bright-cut engraving in the

neo-classical manner — urns, ram's heads."

"That kind of capper. Quite. But it all seems a bit remote from my modest little box. When did they start making wooden ones?"

"Examples from about 1750 onwards have survived in large numbers, many of them beautifully veneered in mahogany with marquetry decoration. Satinwood, often painted, was fashionable from about 1775, and rosewood from about 1800. Others were veneered in ivory or tortoiseshell, or decorated with straw-work by French prisoners of war during the Napoleonic period. Another curious type was made with cavities in the lid and sides to be filled by amateurs with patterns in paper filigree. Then there were caddies in papier mâché, porcelain and cut glass."

"Speaking of glass — why the bowl between the boxes?"

"The two interior compartments, each with its own lid, were for different kinds of tea — usually black and green — which were blended to taste in the bowl. In some caddies, there is a secret drawer for the silver caddy spoon and teaspoons."

"And when was mine made?"

"About 1825. The shape was



a very popular one at the time — based on a Roman sarcophagus."

"For a very small Roman sarcophagus, is it worth anything?"

"Only about £30. But that's the nice thing about caddies — they come at all prices. It is still possible to collect them on a small budget."

"Any fakes to worry about?"

"So far as I know — only a particular group came in the form of various fruits — chiefly cantaloupes and pears. Authentic examples can now cost upwards of £1,000, so let them only from a specialist willing to give a guarantee."

"I'll remember. How about a cuppa? Black, green or a little bag?"

Peter Philp

PROPERTY

New heights in penthouse living

Luxurious high rise homes have become the new symbol of affluence in the Eighties, says Rachel Warren

Few symbols of London's 'Eighties' affluence are more potent than the luxury homes soaring skywards east and west of the city along the Thames.

Suddenly, high-rise living has shed its Sixties' image of prison-like deprivation. Life at the top is a privileged position, with terraces and glorious views.

Compared with somewhere like New York, the true penthouse (as opposed to top-floor flat) is still something of a novelty here. But the release of development land in the docklands and from Chelsea westwards has spawned a new level of residential accommodation seldom to be found in the capital before.

In these buildings, the penthouse is the jewel in the crown. It may have an asking price of £2 million plus. But Savills, the top estate agents, say: "People will pay a substantial premium for a real penthouse with far-reaching views."

Charlotte Mortimer, senior negotiator, reports "a distinct lack" of the real thing in central London. Demand far outstrips supply, she says. Penthouses with huge price tags have been snapped up from building plans when the foundations have barely been laid.

Buyers tend to be in their thirties or forties, successful, single, or married, without families, and with an eye for immaculate detail. "At these prices, they will not take second best."

Carlo Comninos, who developed the Boilerhouse penthouse just east of Tower Bridge at Butlers Wharf in the docklands, has priced his creation at more than £2 million.

It boasts 3,832 sq ft of internal space and a further 1,636 ft of roof garden and terraces.

"I bought this a year ago as a complete shell and started from scratch, with a view to making it a very special penthouse," he said.

With its floodlit atrium and freestanding central staircase, it looks more like the setting for a Busby Berkeley musical than a potential family home. A kitchen that moves on electric rails, a whirlpool jetstream in the apex and a fully computerized lighting system add to the theatrical effect.

But it is Tower Bridge, framed outside the full-length glass windows, which gives the real sense of drama and compensates for the building's size that will cost the neighbourhood for the next six months.

Slightly further east, architect Nicholas Lacey is savouring the fruits of a shrewd investment he made 17 years ago — the purchase of Reeds Wharf. He, his wife Juliet and daughters Lettice, aged 10, and Thea, eight, have made their home in 3,000 square feet of space he developed at the top of the riverside building.

Both are rather sad to see a new and affluent residential influx. "As pioneers," Juliet says, "we rather liked it as it was before. We were the only ones here except for the rats. And at weekends it is still a tomblike place, with wonderful views and just the sound of the river rising and falling."

Nicholas says: "I wanted to live on the river. It's London's finest asset, but I am sorry this neighbourhood has not remained more mixed. It was



Ship chock Christopher Morton Firth, top, and his 29-ft view



Do-it-yourself: Rebecca Salter realized her dream in Islington

still a thriving industrial area when I bought this building which had been used for storing grain. With my conversion, I tried to keep the warehouse feeling."

Westward, several miles up-river beyond Chelsea, penthouse architecture is rather different.

Christopher Morton Firth, a commercial property developer, bought his £750,000 dream home several months ago at the top of a new development by Richard Rogers in Thames Reach. With the help of architect John Heath, he is still perfecting the complementary designer chic inside.

"I wanted black and white textures, not colours. I wanted simplicity," he says, as he looks out over the river through a 29-ft glass wall of rectangular window panes. "I wanted a place to listen to opera, which I love, with the river going by, and to use the effects of lighting to create the mood."

He enjoys the subtle nautical effects of Rogers's concept — yachting cable as a stair rail, porthole-shaped windows and doors.

Finding that kind of residential



Special effects: Tower Bridge, framed in full-length glass windows, is the ultimate finishing touch in Bob Comninos's electronic creation in the Boilerhouse



At the city centre: Ion Rafu, left, established "a Romanian presence" in London's Regent Street; and Bob Beckman found "peace and quiet" in the Barbican



'Being high up gives me the type of peace and isolation I like'

putting the finishing touches to the penthouse.

It will be Rafu's London base and the London headquarters of the Rafu Family Foundation, dedicated to fighting for the rights of Romanians against the Communist regime.

Iolanda Strancu struggled to find British contractors to build sliding glass doors on the sloping penthouse walls but finally imported them from Holland. The construction took 15 months to complete and cost about £500,000.

But Rafu is a determined man. "I wanted a Romanian presence in the centre of London. The wonderful views from here of the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben were always in my mind."

If all this seems over the heads of ordinary folk, artist Rebecca Salter has shown that vision and determination can transform the most humble dwelling into something of a penthouse dream.

On returning from Japan, where she had studied art for six years, she bought a flat at the top of an Islington building formerly owned by the Worshipful Company of Haberdashers.

In 1985 she paid £25,000 for two dilapidated rooms, no bathroom and with all the gas and electrics ripped out. Today she has her own one-bedroom penthouse, with south-facing terrace, modern bathroom and fitted kitchen with sloping glass roof. She estimates total construction costs at between £5,000 and £7,000.

Although she enlisted the help of James Mair, an architect friend, on the plans, she did most of the construction herself, working from a do-it-yourself manual.

Her reward is sunny afternoons gently swinging in the hammock on her terrace. Or at night, working at the large kitchen table she made from the outside door, gazing up at the strategically sited mirror in her sitting-room.

It reflects the sky, explains this proud penthouse owner.

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